



"Congress shall make no law..."

THE VALLEY PATRIOT

'Weather 101' with Al Kaprielian

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RELEASE THE PUBLIC RECORDS!



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Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan with Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D-METHUEN), testifying in the legislature for the Public Records Bill he wrote after having to sue former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua to get public documents released. The Bill (S-1700) was filed by Senator Katy Ives (D-Newburyport)....
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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

HEROES IN OUR MIDST - LAWRENCE COGSWELL, PART 2

Sidney Smith

VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

A young kid of 19 years old, like so many of the young guys my mother and I had met, was being assigned to the 8th AF and sent to England; a kid named Larry from Easton, Maine. His orders had to have read something along these lines:

"Cogswell, Lawrence H., PFC., 8th AF, 45th Combat Wing, 452nd Bomb Group, 730th Bomb Squadron, Captain Hayes, Ralph S., Jr., Commanding Officer, AF Station 142." Once in England, Larry discovered that "Air Force Station 142" was at an airfield in East Anglia known as Deopham Green. It was a somewhat rural place in 1944 and the crew quarters were in what was known at the time as Quonset (or sometimes Nissen) huts. Each hut housed twenty guys and at least most of the huts had poured concrete floors. Heating was by a small British coke-fired stove and given British weather, was never quite adequate.

Firewood was scarce (at that time most Brits did not have much if any). There was no hot water either, but there was a standing (and firm) order that all aircrew were to be clean-shaven. Thus, shaving before missions was always considerably less than pleasant. That order was not through any undue care about personal hygiene and appearance, but rather due to the fact that most missions were to be flown at high altitude ... and oxygen masks had to fit, and fit well, or you were likely to die from anoxia. Missions lasted for hours, and many of them were flown at well over 20,000 feet. It is hard to imagine today

a dress requirement, the ignorance of which could result in nothing short of an extremely unpleasant death. And everyone on the aircrew of a B-17 had an essential position. One man down meant one position or weapon unavailable and that drove the odds up against you, odds that were already none too good.

Regardless of what we on the home front were told at the time, the crews considered the food terrible, consisting mostly of powdered eggs and potatoes (and probably sometimes peas). In fact, there grew up a sort of cottage industry, derived from the fine old British tradition of poaching game, as several of the guys would quietly raid the adjoining landowner's game park and poach a few pheasants for the larder. Larry was also to learn that on-board rations during missions consisted solely of hard candy because anything else would probably require a relief call of nature and that the temperatures at altitude made frostbite an all-too-real genuine risk.

Frostbite was almost as serious a threat as the actual enemy! There was one mission where the indicated outside air temperature was -85° F. Imagine an average temperature of around 85 below zero and having to stand near or at an open window for hours with the wind howling by at somewhere around one hundred fifty miles per hour.

Try that for a wind chill factor!

There was often clouds and quite some fog and lots of rain, which meant that too much flying had to be done under considerably less than optimum conditions. In translation, that meant that many missions were flown in which the first genuinely

dangerous event consisted of climbing up through the fog and cloud cover without colliding with some other B-17. Those collisions were very nearly always fatal to both airplanes. To this day there are several local churches around East Anglia with windows or plaques dedicated to the memories of aircrews killed before they had even been able to get out of British airspace.

I am certain that, even then, Larry was a quietly affable young guy and he must have seen several of the other B-17's at Deopham Green with their always colorful and imaginative "nose art" such as: "E-Rat-Icator", "Sunrise Serenade", "Dog Breath", "Scrappy Jr.", "Flatbush Floogie", "Now Go!", "3 Cads and a Lad", "Mugwump", "Sack Time Soux", "Our Buddy" (dedicated to the P-47 escort fighters), and many equally colorful others. All of these were marked on the vertical stabilizer with the letter "L" inside a square, which designated that the B-17 was based at Deopham Green.

Some would be around for a few missions.

Some wouldn't.

Most of the East Anglia airfields looked similar to each other. Most had one or two large-ish hangars (although most maintenance was carried out on the hardstands in the open in whatever weather was happening). There were hardstands for the fortresses, taxiways, and the prominent control tower with its little glassed-in room atop the brick and mortar block-like building. There were the always-present Quonset huts and guard shacks, mess halls, ops rooms, weather room, medical



hut, vehicle parks, bomb dumps (always located as far as was practical from anything else), and places for the ever present bicycles (if you could get your hands on one). Deopham Green had what they all had: a main runway. Deopham Green's was about 6,000 feet long and considering the bomb and fuel loads the fortresses were too-often required to carry, that was probably just this side of not-quite-long-enough. The runway width often posed a unique challenge, as it was hardly unknown for someone to accidentally slide his "bird" wide and put a landing gear off the runway and into the mud. If that sort of thing had only affected that one aircraft the overall effect might have been minimal, but all too often it would back

HERO: PAGE 30

It’s Socialism, Not Deodorant, That Starves the Poor

Jeff Jacoby
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Dr. Charles Ormsby took this month off and asked that Jeff Jacoby pinch hit.
What this country needs, says Bernie Sanders, is less deodorant.

The 73-year-old senator from Vermont, now running for the Democratic presidential nomination, told CNBC’s John Harwood in an interview on Tuesday that because American consumers can choose from so many brands of personal-care products, kids are going to bed with empty bellies.

Will this deodorant aisle be history when Bernie Sanders is president?

“You don’t necessarily need a choice of 23 underarm spray deodorants or of 18 different pairs of sneakers when children are hungry in this country,” Sanders lamented. He didn’t explain exactly how the profusion of toiletries and athletic footwear leads to childhood hunger, but for the only self-described socialist in Congress, it is no doubt a matter of faith that the abundance of capitalism must generate poverty and undernourishment.

In the real world, the opposite is true: Hunger and deprivation are rarest where markets and trade are freest. Food in America couldn’t possibly be more plentiful; no one starves because too many economic resources are being channeled into marketing Old Spice instead of oatmeal. But in the socialist delusion, centralized control is always preferable to voluntary enterprise. Better that government czars should decide what is produced, and im-

pose their plan from above. After all, when buyers and sellers are left free to choose for themselves, grocery and department store aisles fill up with “too many” goods that consumers desire to buy. And that’s not the worst of it: In the process of fulfilling those desires, some capitalists may be getting wealthy.

Sanders’s suggestion that more kids would eat if only deodorant came in fewer varieties was roundly mocked. Wherever his collectivist ideology has been enforced, however, the consequences shortages, rationing, bare shelves, long lines, grinding austerity, are anything but funny.

Unlike John F. Kennedy, who argued that a rising tide lifts all boats, socialist true believers care far less about growing the economy than about decreasing the gap between rich and poor. “If the changes that you envision ... were to result in a more equitable distribution of income but less economic growth,” Sanders was asked in the CNBC interview, “is that trade-off worth making?” Yes, he said at once. “The whole size of the economy and the GDP doesn’t matter if people continue to work longer hours for low wages.... You can’t just continue growth for the sake of growth in a world in which we are struggling with climate change and all kinds of environmental problems.”

How easy it is to pooh-pooh “growth

for the sake of growth” when you’re an American politician who makes a good salary and never has to worry about where his next meal will come from. But for the world’s destitute, for those who struggle daily just to hold body and soul together economic growth spells salvation. Sanders has spent decades railing against the rich and bemoaning the plight of the poor. Yet

for lifting hungry and needy people out of poverty, no force on earth comes close to the growth fueled by free markets and trade.

On Wednesday, one day after Sanders kicked off his White House campaign, the United Nations reported that hunger still afflicts about 795 million people around the globe, or about one out of every nine human beings. As great a challenge as that is, it represents an amazing decrease in the number of undernourished

people over the past 25 years. Even though the world’s population has grown by 1.9 billion since 1990, there are 216 million fewer men, women, and children threatened by hunger today than there were then.

For the first time, we can realistically envision the end of starvation as a global scourge.

Thanks to advances in agricultural science especially the famous “Green Revolution” for which the American biologist Norman Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, it is possible to grow enough

food to feed a world with 7 billion people. But it takes the dynamism and productivity of markets, and the prosperity ignited by trade, to make that food available and affordable to the great majority of the human family.

Perhaps Sanders doesn’t grasp that, but the UN agency most concerned with feeding the hungry does.

Socialism empties food shelves. Free markets and trade fills them.

“Economic growth is necessary for alleviating poverty and reducing hunger and malnutrition,” emphasizes the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the new hunger report.

“Countries that become richer are less susceptible to food insecurity.”

Blasting greedy billionaires and sneering at the multiplicity of deodorant brands “when children are hungry” appeals to a slice of the electorate. But populist rhetoric from a “humorless aging hippie peacenik Socialist” (as Sanders was once described in a New York Times Magazine profile) doesn’t fill empty food bowls. Market economies do.

“Markets that function well are important for promoting food security and nutrition,” the UN report says. “Markets ... ensure food availability.”

From China to Tanzania, from North Korea to the Soviet Union, socialism over the past century condemned countless children, and their parents, to hunger, malnutrition, and famine.

Deodorant never hurt a soul.
(Jeff Jacoby is a columnist for The Boston Globe).



What’s Happened to Our Humanity?

Jeff Katz
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In early May, the Beegle family of Portland, Oregon was flying home from Orlando, Florida. Mom and dad with two children in tow. What should have been an uneventful flight turned in to an ordeal which the family will never forget and an embarrassment that United Airlines should not ever live down.

The Beegle family had completed the first part of their trip when they had a layover in Houston, Texas. Three of the family members ate during the layover but for whatever reason the fifteen-year-old daughter Juliette did not. No big deal, right? She’d be able to get something on board during the next leg of the flight, after all.

Once on board, Juliette’s mom, Dr. Donna Beegle, saw that her daughter was getting hungry. It is at this point that I need to note that Juliette is autistic. Like so many kids with one disability or another, Juliette has “her thing.” It’s just something unique or special or quirky that

many folks with special needs, especially those on the autism spectrum, have. I know an autistic boy who has “a thing” for water and another child who has “a thing” for fire trucks. For one girl I know, her “thing” is music, especially little kid songs like Old MacDonald. Juliette Beegle’s “thing” is hot food.

Dr. Beegle asked the flight attendant on the United flight for a hot meal for her daughter. No dice said the steward, those meals are only for first class passengers and you are in economy. Dr. Beegle shared with him that Juliette was autistic and really needed a hot meal. She offered to pay extra for the meal. She asked them to please put a cold meal in the microwave and just heat it up. Anything that could just help her daughter make it through the rest of the flight. She pointed out that when her daughter’s blood sugar drops, she gets agitated and sometimes scratches. Passengers seated near the Beegles also beseeched the United crewman to please help Juliette. Eventually, the flight attendant relented but not before telling the captain that there was a passenger with “a behavior issue”

on board. The captain made an emergency landing in Salt Lake City where paramedics and police officers boarded the plane and, at the direction of the United crew, escorted the Beegle family off of the plane. The flight attendant and captain apparently decided that Dr. Beegle’s comment that her daughter sometimes scratches was a direct threat to cause physical injury.

When I discussed this issue on my show (which airs from 3PM to 6PM on iheart-radio and NEWSRADIO WRVA) I was blown away by the vitriol I encountered. The immediate need of some people was to assign blame. In the angriest and nastiest of tones, caller after caller decried that Juliette’s mom was to blame. After all, she should have prepared better! It’s all her fault they screamed. OK, if you need to blame someone go ahead and jump on her, I guess, but I’m still not sure how she was supposed to keep a meal hot on board the flight. Maybe she should have planned better and snuck a microwave on the plane in her carry-on.

I posted this story on Facebook and was met with a barrage of uncaring and unfeeling folks quoting F.A.A. rules and regulations. See, they wrote, the talk of a scratch from a disabled child really is the same as some guy pulling out a knife in the cabin. No difference at all. Letter of the law, don’t ya know. I could almost hear a character from a bad World War II movie shouting, “ze rules are ze rules.” Check that box, kick those people to the curb and let’s get on with it.

Here’s what every parent knows. Plan and prepare. Do we have batteries charged for devices? Snacks? Drinks? Clothing? Etc? Guess what? There’s always something that is forgotten or misplaced ... Sorry about that, but we’re mere mortals.

Here’s what I know being the father of two typically developing boys and a

disabled daughter. My sons can usually deal with whatever the problem is. For The Princess, it’s a little different. She’s a twelve-year-old girl with the mind of an eighteen month old. She does not speak at all. Her communication skills are minimal at best. She’s just learned to walk in the past year or so. She likes to hum and sometimes she just cracks herself up laughing and squealing. We know that her behavior might be out of the norm on occasion, but she’s still a person worthy of understanding and compassion. Oh, and sometimes she just needs to hear her old man sing Old MacDonald to help settle herself down. Sorry, if I am sometimes a little pitchy.

There are a few lessons to be learned here. The lesson for United Airlines is that the old maxim of all publicity being good publicity does not hold true, especially in the age of social media. If that one flight attendant had simply said, yeah I see your problem let me grab a meal for you; United would have been seen as heroes. They would have been saluted for showing that some people still do care. Instead, they come off looking like creeps and jerks.

The lesson that we, who are parents of disabled children, have learned is that there are some people in the world who don’t have a single shred of compassion or humanity anywhere in their bodies. I can only suggest to them, that they bow down at night and give thanks to their God that their children all developed according to plan. You see, if any of your kids had just one chromosome out of place you’d be over here with us, and right about now the view is not especially nice.

Jeff Katz hosts an award winning daily talk show, heard from 3PM to 6PM on iheartradio and NEWSRADIO WRVA. You can follow him on twitter @jeffkatzshow and also at facebook.com/radiokatz

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Fighting to Change State's Fake Public Records Law

Legislators, members of the media and 1st amendment advocates testified last month before a joint House and Senate committee on Beacon Hill, asking legislators to add penalties to the state's public records law.

The law, MGL Ch. 66, states that the keeper of records in any municipality or public agency must turn over public documents within ten days of request.

But, Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan detailed for lawmakers his newspaper's struggle to get public documents over the last eleven years, saying that officials know there is no penalty for violating the public records law "and they take advantage of that fact."

"In 2012 we submitted a public records request to get records to see how much the city was paying outside legal counsel. We were told by the former Mayor of Lawrence, Willie Lantigua, that he wasn't even going to make the effort to look for public records because there was no penalty for refusing." Duggan then detailed how he received a letter from the city attorney saying the records he was looking for were indeed public record, and that if he paid \$61.81, the city would turn over the records.

"I personally went to the City Attorney's office and handed them a check for \$61.81. They took my check, they cashed my check, and then never turned over the documents, forcing us to incur more than \$11,000 in legal bills to bring the city to court to get the records."

Duggan said that even though three superior court judges ordered Lantigua to turn over the records he continued to refuse. "Eventually the voters took care of that problem when they threw Lantigua out of office and the incoming mayor gave us the documents we were looking for, but that was long after the documents were of no use to us."

Duggan is credited with writing Senate Bill S1700, which was submitted by State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives. If passed, the bill will personally fine public officials \$50 per day for every day they do not turn over public documents. The Ives bill will also allow members of the public to recoup legal fees and court costs if they have to take a public entity to court to get public records released.

GALVIN'S SUPPORT.... KIND OF...

Secretary of State Bill Galvin, who has been resistant to releasing public documents out of his own office, surprisingly



PHOTO: BHARANI PADMANABHAN

Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan with Rep Diana DiZoglio, testifying in the legislature for the public records bill he wrote after having to sue former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua to get public documents released.

showed up at the legislative hearing and testified that fines should be imposed on officials who refuse to release public documents, adding that he believes reimbursing the public for court costs should be part of the law.

"I strongly support the idea that when a requestor ... is willing to go to court themselves, they ought to be able to recover court costs. There ought to be some means by which they [public entities] would give back the costs that they [the public] would incur to enforce the order to the supervisor. Also there might be some system of fines on agencies that fail to cooperate. These would be some clear areas of enforcement," Galvin said.

Secretary of State Galvin said that he believes the public should be charged fees for obtaining public records, even electronic records that require no copying and no paperwork. Galvin also lamented that too often, fees are used to discourage members of the public from seeking documents.

"One of the great concerns we have is that we frequently will decide a case, it will be decided that it is a public record, then having decided it as a public record, the agency will then hit the requestor with an enormous amount of fees in order to get the requestor documents, frustrating the requestor all the more. There is clearly a basis for making a standard fee for replication of public records whether it be electronic or paper."

Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan disagrees.

"The taxpayers already paid for these records, why should we have to pay twice?" he asked on 980WCAP radio after the hearing. "The fact is, we pay public officials to create and compile

these records, there's no reason to charge the public again. What about the poor and minorities who cannot afford to get copies of public records? Isn't it racist to give records to rich white people who can afford them but not poor minorities who do not have the resources? It seems to me that Secretary Galvin and his party have a hypocrisy problem on this issue. Public records belong to the public and we already paid for them, they are our records and we shouldn't be suppressing the public's right to obtain them."

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC RECORDS

"It's important, if we are going to have teeth in this law that encourages public officials to comply with it, that they have an incentive to release public records in a timely manner. To me, that means fining the individuals who are legally responsible for releasing the records in the first place," Senator Katy Ives (D) said on 980WCAP last year when she filed the bill.

"The problem with this law," Republican Rep. Jim Lyons of Andover said. "is that when an elected official or a holder of public records simply refuses to comply with the law, like Mayor Lantigua ... in Lawrence, there is no penalty. All the Secretary of State can do is send them a nasty letter, and as we have seen in the case of The Valley Patriot that doesn't work," Rep. Lyons said. "I fully support this bill and I will vote for it."

Both Lyons and Methuen Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D) filed the exact same bill and eventually signed off as co-sponsors of the Ives Bill, which successfully got out of three subcommittees with a favorable recommendation.

"If citizens are not able to gain access

PUBLIC RECORDS: PAGE 35

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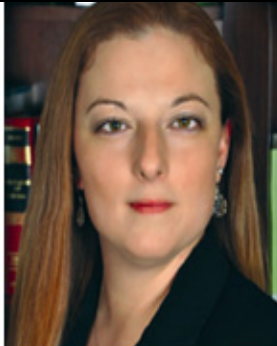
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Father’s Day: A Son’s Confession

Oscar Camargo
NORTH ANDOVER COLUMNIST

I must confess: I used to hate Father's Day.

It was a painful reminder growing up that my father wasn't around. I envied friends who grew up with that sacred bond intact, and secretly wished no one would ask about my situation.

You see, my father was an alcoholic and it nearly destroyed our family.

Violent outbursts followed by vows of change; angry cries followed by tears of sorrow; and all in an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear. In time, my mother chose to take her children away from this dangerous situation.

Slowly, the memories of my father faded but his absence was felt. He had wounded me more than any physical mark he'd ever inflicted. Even though I was fatherless I wasn't without father figures--men who offered advice and guided me into adulthood. Yet, even they

couldn't fill the void left by the one man that mattered the most.

It was almost a decade before I was reunited with the man who haunted my childhood. When I met him, I found a man who was four years sober and had started a new family. I found a man who had realized the depth of his failures and, in doing so, found my forgiveness.

On every third Sunday of June, we're reminded that fatherhood is as much a blessing as it is a moral responsibility. I'm glad my father is back in my life, but I often wonder how differently it would've been without his absence. The sins of my father will always stay with me as a reminder that one life can truly make a difference.



Oscar Camargo is a veteran and former candidate for State Representative. Follow him on Twitter at @followcamargo or email at followcamargo@gmail.com

State Auditor Bump on Balancing Work, Leadership and Laundry

Oscar Camargo
NORTH ANDOVER COLUMNIST

NORTH ANDOVER—Massachusetts State Auditor Suzanne Bump is the first female to serve as Auditor in the Commonwealth’s history, and she spoke frankly about her experiences at the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce’s “Women in Business Series” last month.

Members of the Chamber fielded questions as last minute attendees checked in. Servers carefully made their way through a maze of local leaders and business cards. I was relieved when the Auditor dabbed on some coral lipstick—something so normal that I suddenly realized I had never seen at political events.

Chamber board member Kimberly Abare introduced Bump, who smoothed out her suit and stood up in one motion. The Auditor said Chamber President Joe Bevilacqua asked her to tackle the elusive question: how do you achieve work-life



State Auditor Bump with Jessica Finocchiaro at China Blossom in North Andover .

balance? She paused again to put on a pair of thin black glasses, and looking over the top of them she admitted, “FRANKLY I don’t really know that [my] scales ARE at equilibrium... I don’t have work-life balance... I’m not able to do these things because I’m a superwoman, I’m able to ... because I have support.” This refreshingly honest answer to a question that’s been haunting women since the ‘70s was followed up with practical advice for helping us succeed: let go of some traditional

BUMP: PAGE 27

Chris Boshar: A Tale of Courage One Day at a Time

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Morgan Murphy and Kathleen LaPlante contributed to this story.

Chris Boshar of North Andover struggles with daily tasks that others take for granted every day. Paralyzed from a diving accident, friends and family members of Boshar organize a charity run each year to help him with living expenses. The Valley Patriot sat down with Chris and his mom last month to talk about his ordeal.

“It was Fourth of July weekend in 2011,”Boshar tells The Valley Patriot. “We were up at the lake Winnisquam in New Hampshire. Not Lake Winnepesaukee, people confuse the two. You know, we were doing the family thing; it’s a family tradition to go up there and have a good time in the summer. It was July 2nd and we were on a boat, there was a sand bar, I slipped off of the boat and my feet got clipped and went into the sand bar and consequently broke my C4/C5 vertebrae which left me paralyzed.”

“I fell off towards the stern of the boat and was floating in the water for a little bit, face down. My mother rolled me over and I thought that was it.”

Chris says he ended up being medevacked from a regional hospital in New Hampshire to Mass General Hospital where he was on life support for a few

weeks. “You know, ventilated and all that kind of stuff. I suffered pneumonia a couple of times. I was there for three weeks and then I got sent down to The Shepherd’s Center in Atlanta which is kind of a state of the art spinal cord injury facility.”

AMAZING SUPPORT SYSTEM

“I was down in Atlanta for about three months, and probably the feel good story of all that is the amount of support that I got while I was there. You don’t see that up in the newspapers, well, except The Valley Patriot. But, you normally don’t see good stuff like that in the news. I got great support from family and friends and not just my own family, and not just my own friends, but my parents friends too.”

“People go through catastrophic things and when you do, you find out who your friends are. For some people that can be a really sad awakening. Fortunately, for me it was quite the opposite. People stepped up much bigger than I would have ever imagined and that’s definitely been the cornerstone of everything in my life.”

SUPPORT FROM CO-WORKERS AND EMPLOYER

“You know, at the time I was employed by Boston Capital in downtown Boston. I was working as a technical underwriter. I only worked there maybe a year and a half, not even, when this happened. I was

at the bottom of the totem pole.”

“When I first got hurt I was at Mass General for 3 weeks. My insurance wouldn’t fly me down to The Shepherd’s Center in Atlanta for treatment, so the company [said] ‘we’ll fly you down in a jet’. The jet isn’t made for medical purposes, so I think that it was the executive team there that decided to pay the \$15,000 flight to Atlanta. So, off we went to Atlanta and like I said, we were down there for a long while.”

“I was put back in the ICU and suffered a bunch of other infections while trying to come to grasp with my paralysis, which is kind of a massive mind game. But again, you know, the family, the friends, the coworkers, and my employer were a great network of support.”

“So there I was in Atlanta, you know, there were people flying down to see me. My co-workers, not the company, but my co-workers, the regular people that work there every day. Everyone pooled together all their frequent flyer miles and flew my cousin Matt down (who is like my brother) . He came down every Monday and then they flew him back every Friday. And then every Friday night my girlfriend (at the time), they would fly her down and she would leave Sunday. Then my cousin Matt would show back up on Monday.”

“They were able to do that with no expense to either one of them for three

months.”

Boshar says that housing was provided for the family for about 30 days but because he ended up staying in Atlanta for 80 or 90 days, one of the seniors VPs from a multifamily real estate firm that deals all across the country, reached out to some of his partners in Atlanta. Chris says that the real estate owner had a general partner that lived in Atlanta and had just constructed a housing development in the Atlanta area.

“He heard the story about what happened to me and furnished two apartments for my family and one of my friends. They took care of everything, silverware, plates, microwave, TV, etc., they had all of that. So there were a lot of people who did so much.”

RESTORE THE BOSH – A RACE FOR CHRIS

Chris’ mission through this race is to provide inspiration and provide resources for those suffering from spinal cord injuries. He says he wants to encourage both walking and non-walking individuals to pursue a strong commitment to health through diet and exercise. “His ambition is to recover – his aspiration is to run.” (“Mission Statement.” Restore The Bosh. N.p., n.d. Web. 2 June 2015)

“In terms of the race, this is put on by two close friends of mine, a high school

BOSHAR: PAGE 23

ACTIVITIES FROM THE CENTER AT PUNCHARD

CENTER AT PUNCHARD GRILL NIGHT

Thursday, June 18, 5-7pm, advance purchase only. Outdoor grill night that include salads, drink, dessert as well as your main course; all starting at \$5. Specials: Steak tips \$8. Movie will follow at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

PERSONAL TRAINING: BACK TO BASICS

Thursdays, June 4-25 from 6-7pm, \$26. Small group personal training to develop your own easy-to-follow workout to continue on your own or with a workout buddy. Get motivated through self-assessment and discussion. Meal available for purchase at 5pm. Limit 8.

NORDIC WALKING

Wednesdays, through June 24 from 3:45-5:15pm. Enjoy hiking the local AVIS trails.

PLAY BRIDGE

Fridays, June 5-August 14, 1-3:30pm. Cost: \$20. Fun, informal setting. Intermediate bridge skills are required as well as partners.

DIABETES SELF-HELP WORKSHOP

Thursdays, June 11-July 23 from 1-3:30pm, by advance registration at Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley (978) 946-1211. To be held at 30 Whittier Court, Andover. Practical skills to manage fatigue, pain, stress, use of medication and healthy eating choices in a supportive, confidential group setting.

POMP’S POND SIZZLING SENIORS!

Wed, June 17 from 12-3pm, \$5. Have a great afternoon enjoying the summer sun before the kids are out for the year! Swim, paddleboat or paddleboard,

kayak, hike or just plain ole’ relax! We’ll have burgers on the grill, chips, sodas and ice cream novelties. Transportation provided, or plenty of parking there. Handicap accessible. Let us know when you register. (Rain date: June 23).

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Monday, June 22 at 1:30pm, \$3. Celebrate with your friends as we have an informal gathering to make our own sundaes and share our stories of the worst winter on record! Advance registration required.

WRIGHT MUSEUM OF WWII HISTORY IN WOLFEBORO, NH

Tuesday, June 23 from 9:30am-4pm, \$50, includes admission and lunch. This museum presents the stories of America’s Greatest Generation. Offering accounts from the battlefields and particularly the home front shows how

Americans pulled together as never before or since. Lunch at Downtown Grille with time to explore the shops/waterfront.

COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE

Thursday, June 25, 6:45pm, \$10. Make some noise and find your joy! Reduce stress, improve immune system and have a blast! Play West African, Japanese, and a variety of percussion instruments. Bring your instrument or enjoy the ones we provide.

The Center at Punchard (The Center), 30 Whittier Court, Andover. Hours are 8am-4pm. Pre-registration required for all events and space is limited. Register at www.myactivecenter.com. Open to entire community, pending space. Call for information: 978-623-8321. Or visit www.andoverseniorcenter.org for our complete listings.



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Voters Reject Letting 16 Year Olds Vote, Run for Office

North Andover voters rejected a measure at the Annual Town Meeting Tuesday night that would have allowed 16 and 17 year-olds the right to vote in local elections, at Town Meeting, and even run for local office.

Had the Warrant Article passed at Town Meeting, the question would have gone before the voters on the next town ballot, due to an amendment submitted by Dr. Frank MacMillan. Those supporting the change in voting age, including Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo, also voted against putting the question before the voters on the next town ballot.

The final vote on changing the voting

age in North Andover was 30 in favor, and 170 against.

The Town Warrant Article was submitted by Celia DiSalvo, who is 18 years old and a graduate of North Andover High School. Because Celia DiSalvo is the daughter of Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo, he recused himself from moderating that portion of Town Meeting, and sat in the audience during the discussion.

Town Moderator Mark DiSalvo Voted NO on Putting the Issue Before the Voters at the Ballot Box.

“The Idea came from the three of us,” Celia DiSalvo said after Town Meeting, pointing to Adam Magletta and Joy Duboff. As I am the only one who is an actual voter, I was the one who had to put it on the Town Warrant. I’m 18 years-old so, technically, I was the petitioner, but the idea came from all of us.”

Celia says she voted in the town election this year and voted tonight at Annual Town Meeting tonight for the first time.

Adam Magletta says that he and his friends were motivated to put the Warrant Article before Town Meeting because of the low turnout in the last town election.

“As Far as the impetus of this, I think we were all alarmed by the voter participation rate in the last election, which presented important choices between candidates and issues that seemingly nobody cared about,” Magletta said.



“We were all really concerned by that. So obviously we are disappointed but this isn’t the last bit of activism we are going to be involved with.”

Selectmen

“All three of us have been involved in politics for a while through volunteering on campaigns,” DiSalvo agreed. “We believe we are knowledgeable enough to express our vote. This is something critical, and it’s tangible, contributing to a ballot [measure], and to have a voice in the political process.”

“It’s obviously disappointing,” Joy Duboff said of the 170-30 defeat of the measure.

“We did better than we expected and it

was a success of it’s own, though, to see people who, although they opposed us they showed passion and motivation to do so, that brought more attention to the matter. I think more people got informed because of this. So even though this didn’t get approved it was a success in that [way].”

DiSalvo said that she and her friends were not giving up. “We will be back next year, I will be in college but I will come back to help these two.”

With only 200 voters attending Annual Town Meeting the town budget passed as well as a warrant article mandating broadcasting all town board meetings including the Finance Committee.



Anne Knowles ANDOVER COLUMNIST

What great time to be had. On Saturday, May 30, Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz, came to Andover to meet and greet many of his supporters. Over 500 people turned out for this opportunity to listen to Sen. Cruz tell the crowd his vision of what America can and will be under his administration. Hosted at State Representative Jim Lyon’s “barn” it was an atmosphere of “we can do it.”

His “courageous conservative” campaign is a promise to deliver to the people

Anne’s Andover Notebook

of the United States, a country that stands for freedom, a better life for generations to come, and American leadership in our world. He made note of the malaise that infects much of the current government, “our friends don’t trust us and our enemies don’t fear us.”

His call to put this country back on the right course is to enforce and adhere to the “Bill of Rights” that all citizens have and must understand. Government is for the people, and the people have the right to be

free to participate in all the promises that the United States has to offer.

He cited problems that the current administration in Washington, D.C. does not understand how to solve or lacks the desire to correct. Lack of jobs and economic growth, an overreach of regulations, lack of opportunities for progress, the need for a reduction in taxes that effects the people of this country.

Senator Cruz spoke of his father’s escape from Cuba when his dad was 17 years old and had only \$100 in his pocket.

His father has been an important part of his life; impressing Senator Cruz of the greatness of America.

The Senator talked of the men and women who stood strong and firm at the Alamo in 1836. Drawing a line in the sand, Col. William Travis asked, “Who will stand with me?”, and that is a question Americans must answer today. A grassroots army of patriotic citizens can restore the United States to its full potential for all its people.

The Cruz for President campaign appreciates the interest and support of the people. Check their website for updates on future events. tedcruz.org

North Andover Town Hall Renovation

Façade Study – OPTION A
Donham & Sweeney | Architects

TOWN APPROVES NEW FACADE DESIGN FOR TOWN HALL

This facade design retains the architectural features which show where the old firehouse doors were. It moves the main entrance squarely in the center of the building, with the “current” front into a larger bay window on the left side of the building.

“This design creates a clean, visually distinct building on our Main Street,” said Selectman Phil DeCologero. “It makes space for all of our town offices to be centrally located, while tastefully preserving key design elements that will remind visitors that this was once home to generations of firefighters.”

ZUMBA WITH TALLIE!

Zumba Girl TALLIE!
Mon, Tue, Wed, & Thurs., 4:30pm
ALL ages & abilities welcome!



MassDEP Penalizes Commonwealth Motors \$15K, Suspends Auto Inspections for 2 Years Due to Fraud

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Individual Inspector Also Penalized Separately for 6 Fraudulent Emission Tests

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) penalized Commonwealth Motors of Lawrence \$15,000 for issuing six fraudulent motor vehicle inspection stickers between July 16 and November 7, 2014. In addition, Commonwealth Motors’ license to conduct automobile emissions was suspended for up to two years.

This is not the first time the DEP has cited Commonwealth Motors. In September of 2012 MassDEP and the Registry of Motor Vehicles Strike Force found Commonwealth doing fraudulent emissions testing and fined them.

After identifying inconsistent patterns of data from vehicles’ on-board diagnostic (OBD) system generated from Commonwealth Motors, MassDEP inspected the facility once again on November 25, 2014. Several representatives of Commonwealth Motors were interviewed, including Albenis Ortega of Lawrence, who was identified as having been the source of the fraudulent inspections.

Ortega is no longer employed at this or any station conducting certified automobile inspection and maintenance checks for the purpose of issuing stickers in Massachusetts. Ortega has also been issued a \$6,000 penalty for the violations.

Among the fraudulent “clean-scan” stickers issued, one had been obtained for himself as well as for other members of Ortega’s family, including his wife’s aunt and a cousin. Generating fraudulent inspection stickers violates the emissions inspections regulations and the Massachusetts Clean Air Act.

“We investigated and took action because we must have confidence in the system, and using the vehicle inspection workstation equipment to generate fraudulent inspection stickers in this

manner undermines the integrity of the auto emissions program that has been put in place to protect air quality and public health,” said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg.

The automobile inspection program in Massachusetts is administered jointly by MassDEP and the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), and is the primary tool for combating the emission of excess pollution from motor vehicles. Motor vehicles are a significant source of pollutants that are known to have especially adverse health effects on children, the elderly, and persons already suffering from respiratory ailments.

“This penalty should send a clear signal to the industry that the Commonwealth will not tolerate violations of the inspection program,” said Registrar Erin Deveney. “Failing to follow the proper process presents unacceptable safety risks to motorists and also undermines the program’s purpose of ensuring harmful vehicle emissions that could affect public health do not go unchecked.”

Commonwealth Motors will pay the \$15,000 penalty within 30 days. The facility will have its automobile emissions station license locked out for two months. The facility will have its licensed inspection workstation restored for the remaining 22 months, provided there are no additional violations during the entire two-year period.

Ortega will pay \$3,000 of his penalty and the remaining \$3,000 will be suspended provided there are no additional violations for a period of two years.

Consumers who want to find out more about the vehicle inspection program can call the toll-free Massachusetts Vehicle Check Help Desk at 866-941-6277 or visit the Massachusetts Vehicle Check web site at: www.mass.gov/vehiclecheck

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

Adventures in Transparency

Kathy Runge
VALLEY PATRIOT LAWRENCE COLUMNIST

Myra Ortiz, Candidate for District A Councilor

I recently spoke with Myra Ortiz, who will be running against incumbent Sandy Almonte. Myra has made Lawrence her home for 15 years and currently represents District A on the School Committee.

Although the school system is under receivership, Ms. Ortiz has a productive relationship with Receiver Jeffrey Riley and feels that the committee members have many opportunities to make a positive impact. One of her priorities is developing partnerships that expose students to leadership opportunities in civic engagement. This month she plans to escort 45 students from the Arlington School to a Congress for Girls, which encourages girls to get involved in politics.

Myra has been an associate at the Mayo Clinic in Andover for 13 years, working in talent acquisition and business development. She has a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership from Southern New Hampshire University and an Associates Degree in Business Management from Northern Essex Community College.

Ms. Ortiz doesn’t support the infamous no confidence resolution that’s still on the table and would not be a supporter of a mayoral recall over the residency requirement.

She was one of the honorees at the Greater Lawrence YWCA’s Tribute to Women 2015 for her work with numerous community organizations. I think Myra Ortiz is a capable, intelligent and responsible person who would do a good job as a councilor.

If you live in District A, she deserves serious consideration for your vote. More information will be found on her website which will be launched soon.

NAGGING QUESTIONS

Does anyone else have questions that keep nagging them? One question I have is the identity of this dog. Does anyone recognize it? If you know whose dog this is please email me at freda666@hotmail.com. This is the icon I get when bookmarking City of Lawrence web pages using the Dolphin browser. Other browsers give the usual icon.

The other thing I kept wondering about was if the City Council ever forwarded my complaint alleging a violation of the Open Meeting Law (OML) to the Attorney General’s Office (AGO) as required by law.

On January 15 of this year I filed a complaint alleging the Council violated the OML. The details of the complaint were given in my February 2015 column. The Council should have forwarded a

copy of my complaint along with any remedial action taken to the AGO within 14 business days. The filer may forward the complaint to the Division of Open Government in the AGO’s office after 30 days if they feel the response was inadequate.

I saw no evidence of any response by February 17, so I called the Division of Open Government to inquire as to the process of forwarding my complaint to them. They suggested I first reach out to Council President Maldonado and ask him if he was going to respond and requested I mention that their office had not received a copy of the complaint.

On March 2, I wrote a letter to the Council President indicating I had received no response and asked if a copy of the response that should have been sent to the AGO could be sent to me. I neglected to mention that the AGO hadn’t received any materials regarding my complaint.

Just as I was getting ready to contact the state again, I received a response from Council President Maldonado along with a cover letter from City Attorney Boddy. The response from Maldonado was a letter addressed to the Attorney General dated January 21, 2015.

City Attorney Boddy’s cover letter stated that Maldonado’s response “indicated” that it had been sent to the AGO and a carbon copy was sent to me on the said date. What does that mean, at some time someone typed ‘January 21, 2015’ into a computer? That’s another one of those pesky questions that keep nagging me.

For many reasons I didn’t think Council President Maldonado’s response was sufficient. I won’t get into all of the details here, but as the entire Council was named in the complaint I felt that some discussion should have occurred at the council level.

I kept wondering, did the AGO’s copy also get lost in the mail? Did the Council President finally forward the complaint as was required or just give me a copy of a letter supposedly sent to the AGO? I forwarded my complaint to the Division of Open Government in early April just to make sure they received a copy.

Guess what? I received a call from the Division of Open Government a couple of weeks later and their copy was still nonexistent! You would think that the Council President would’ve checked to see if they had received their copy after realizing I hadn’t received mine.

If the response I received had been dated sometime in March I wouldn’t have been happy, but what can you say in a situation like that? Instead we’re supposed to believe that both the Attorney General’s copy and mine were “lost in the mail.” I’ll let the reader form your own opinion regarding this matter.

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Two Lawrence Men Arraigned for Extensive Heroin Packaging and Distribution Operation More than \$1M in Heroin Seized

Two Lawrence men have been arraigned in connection with an extensive heroin trafficking operation, Attorney General Maura Healey announced today. The men were arrested while trying to flee a Lawrence home where authorities seized four guns, approximately \$2,000 in cash and about four kilograms of heroin with an estimated street value of more than \$1 million.

Wilkins Diaz, age 39, and Luis Hernandez, age 32, were arrested last Thursday in a joint operation involving Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Attorney General's Office, the Massachusetts State Police Transportation Drug Unit (TDU) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

"Our office is committed to combating the opioid crisis on multiple fronts, including prosecuting those who traffic these deadly drugs," said AG Healey. "I thank the other agencies involved in this operation and will continue to work with our local, state and federal partners to fight this devastating epidemic that is claiming lives across the state."

Diaz and Hernandez were arraigned in Lawrence District Court on Friday each on one count of Trafficking in Heroin over 1,000 Grams, Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Law, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Improper Storage of a Firearm. Both pleaded not guilty to the charges. Diaz was held on \$750,000 cash bail and Hernandez was held on \$500,000 cash bail.

If either of the defendants posts bail, they must surrender their passports and be monitored by GPS. They are both due back in Lawrence District Court on June 10.

In May, authorities from the State Police TDU began an investigation into an alleged drug trafficking operation in the Lawrence area.

Authorities executed search warrants last Thursday and seized approximately four kilograms of heroin in total, as well as a kilo press, digital scales, approximately \$2,000 in cash, and other packaging materials that were found in the home. Four handguns were also found and neither Diaz nor Hernandez had a valid license to carry a firearm.

Authorities arrested Diaz and Hernandez as they were trying to flee the home.

Diaz had about \$3,000 in cash in his pocket at the time of arrest.

This investigation remains ongoing. Shortly before taking office, Attorney General Maura Healey announced the formation of an internal AG's task force to more aggressively combat the heroin and prescription drug abuse crisis in Massachusetts.

A recent report from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health estimates that more than 1,000 people died from overdoses of heroin and other opioids in 2014 in Massachusetts, which is 33 percent higher than in 2012.

AG Healey has vowed to use a multifaceted approach to improve the prescription monitoring program, educate prescribers, pursue illegal drug traffickers and pill mills, and expand access to recovery and treatment programs.

This spring, AG Healey participated in the Governor's Opioid Addiction Working Group Listening Tour, which provided an opportunity to gather feedback from the community and ideas on how to halt the opioid epidemic.

Last month, the AG's Office sued a North Andover treatment center for unlawfully profiting off of patients seeking treatment for opiate addiction, charging hundreds of dollars per visit and allowing them to avoid counseling services.

Also in April, two Boston men were arrested in connection with trafficking heroin after search warrants were executed in Dorchester and Roxbury and more than 130 grams of heroin were seized. In March, the AG's Office indicted a Dorchester man and woman in connection with heroin trafficking.

In January, the AG's Office arrested and charged Naman Spencer for his involvement in an alleged scheme to use fraudulent prescriptions to illegally obtain Oxycodone tablets.

The AG's Office discovered Spencer's alleged illegal activities through their investigation into Vincent Leo, who was indicted on more than 100 counts of prescription and credit card fraud and identity theft in November 2014. Leo allegedly created hundreds of fraudulent prescriptions in order to obtain oxycodone tablets.

The charges against Diaz and Hernandez are allegations and defendants are

HEROIN: PAGE 17



Lantigua Confidant, Milagros Dominguez Arrested by Homeland Security

A long time ally, confidant, strategist, and campaign worker for former Lawrence Mayor and State Rep. Willie Lantigua, has been arrested and charged by the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force.

The task force is a partnership between HSI and other federal, state, and local counterparts. It was created with a series of multi-agency teams, developed to target criminal organizations and beneficiaries behind fraudulent schemes.

Milagros Dominguez of Lawrence, was charged with 3 counts of violation of 42 USC, Sec 408; for using false social security numbers to receive benefits. She was arraigned in federal court Tuesday afternoon and released without bail, but with the following conditions; she cannot move, cannot change employment, must remain employed, must use her real name at all times, and cannot use any other identities or social security numbers.

A pretrial conference is set for early July.

NO STRANGER TO CONTROVERSY
In 2006, The Valley Patriot broke several stories about Dominguez using a fake identity after our sources obtained an original false drivers license. The license listed her name as 'Dirma Espada' next to her photo.

At the time Dominguez refused to comment, but a month later in June of 2006, she verbally attacked a Valley Patriot reporter at Semana Hispana (Hispanic

Week), saying that The Valley Patriot manufactured "lies". Our reporter snapped this photo (right) as she lashed out at him.

STILL CAUSING TROUBLE
Lawrence Police also escorted Dominguez out of the Valebrook Apartments last year. The incident happened on Election Day, November 4, 2014. Dominguez had been causing a raucous after voters complained that she was campaigning for Willie Lantigua inside the polling locations. Lantigua was running for State Representative against Marcos Devers. He lost that election.

Dominguez also worked for the City of Lawrence under Mayor Lantigua as a poll worker with access to voter information. She was in charge of checking voters' names as they voted. Dominguez was seen not only wearing Lantigua stickers inside the polling locations, but several voters complained that she was going inside the polling booth with voters and telling them who to vote for, as well as passing out sample ballots with Lantigua's name already checked off. During the 2013 Lawrence mayoral race between Mayor Lantigua and (then) Councilor Dan Rivera, a recount was held. Milagros Dominguez represented the Lantigua campaign during that recount. She is seen below conferring with Lantigua during that recount.

She has also been the publisher of, and writer for several Spanish language newspapers and magazines including the

FRAUD: PAGE 26

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

PUBLIC RECORDS SIDENOTES

By now you know I'm in a fight to change the state's fake public records law. One of the things not really discussed in the many stories this month about that fight is the MMA, or the Massachusetts Municipal Association. This is a group that opposes putting penalties on public officials who refuse to comply with the state's public records law. You know who the members of the MMA are who are opposing my bill (and several others)? That's right, their members are ELECTED OFFICIALS! Selectmen, city councilors, mayors, town managers, and city clerks are all the people who make up the MMA. And as such, they are the people who will be paying the hefty fines out of their pockets if my bill passes.

What the MMA wants instead of public accountability is for the legislature to create some kind of board or commission to determine what is, and what is not, a public record. Here's the kicker... THEY want to be on that board or commission. So, what we have here is, elected officials, through their association group, trying to back door this bill. And because the MMA represents ALL municipal public officials, we will never get to know exactly who is behind their opposition.

So, I am calling on ALL members of The Valley Patriot family who serve in elected office (in any capacity) throughout our coverage area. Call and email the MMA and tell them that as MMA members yourselves, YOU SUPPORT S-1700 and the bills to add penalties to MGL Ch. 66, the state's public records law.

NORTH ANDOVER - ONE VOTE AGAINST TRANSPARENCY

At North Andover's Annual Town Meeting, a warrant article came up to mandate all town boards be videotaped and broadcast on cable TV so that there can be more "transparency" in the way town officials do the town's business. The vote was 199-1. Who was that one person who voted against transparency? Why, none other than former candidate for state representative, Selectman Rosemary Smedile. The same Rosemary Smedile who attacked State Rep. Diana DiZogio for being against "transparency". In fact, Smedile made "transparency" a main focus of her campaign when she was looking for your vote. But, now that she's lost the state rep. election, she had no problem voting against transparency herself. This proves once again that when someone points the finger at someone else, there are still three pointing back at them.

WELCOME AL KAPRIELIAN

Famous weatherman Al Kaprielian has officially joined The Valley Patriot family this month with his new column "Weather 101 with Al!" Each month, Al will explain weather terms and help our readers understand how the weather works. Al will also answer reader mail. So if you want to email Al Kaprielian a weather question he can answer in his column, you can email valleypatriot@aol.com and put "AL KAPRIELIAN" in the subject box.

TOP TEN STORIES LAST MONTH THAT WERE REALLY NOT NEWS

Since there are so many stories in the news that are really NOT news, I have decided to make good use of a pet peeve of mine and start shaming the press with a top ten list of stories in the news that may have been cute or interesting, but were NOT NEWS. This month's top 10:

10 - Family of ducks crossed the highway out west. REALLY? That's NEWS?

9 - Man calls 911 because angry cat won't let him back in the house. Just imagine how many missing children the



Slain Officer Finally Honored

Lawrence officials have finally honored slain Lawrence Patrolman Eugene Scanlon with the dedication of a square named after him on July 4th at Amherst Street & David Street in Lawrence.



Lawrence Fire Chief Brian Moriarty (center left) and Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera (center right) at the promotion and appointment ceremony last month at the Lawrence Firefighter Relief's In, on Market Street.

"Vinyl Girl" Cindy Annis and her dad Pete Annis take your vinyl record requests Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday nights on 980WCAP radio (980AM or www.980wcap.com).



news media could have showcased in the HOURS UPON HOURS of time they spent on that fake news story!

8 - Walmart turns up the heat in their stores because of complaints. UGH!

7 - Ted Cruz Jokes about Joe Biden after Biden's son dies. Look, he didn't even tell a joke. He said Biden WAS a joke. For the media to hide behind Biden's son's death to portray a Republican as cold and unfeeling, is propaganda, not news. Besides, Cruz had been saying that since before Biden's son passed away. Don't believe me? Check out the video on valleypatriot.com.

6 - Marco Rubio gets 4 traffic tickets. Media reports Rubio had 17 tickets,

lumping in his wife's 9 tickets to try and make this a story of a Republican who flouts the law and thinks he's better than everyone else. A) Dirty political trick. B) NOT NEWS!

5 - Stewardess serves Muslim woman an opened can of diet coke on plane, woman cries discrimination and every channel runs with it, never even verifying the story. This story ran for three days. Every news channel interviewed this Muslim woman. With no verification, they allowed her to go global with a story of discrimination against a specific airline. Not only is this NOT NEWS, it's journalistic malpractice.

4 - The sexual molestation story

about Josh Duggar. He was 14. He was a minor. It happened years ago. If he was a Congressman from Massachusetts sleeping with a 14-year-old page boy, he would be lauded on CNN as a HERO. (Oh right they DID do that didn't they?) This is propaganda to destroy a TV show that promotes Christian values and family life. The Democrat controlled news media has been desperate to try and kill this TV show in any way they can and because someone broke the law by leaking juvenile records, the Duggar family (not just the offender) have been targeted. Josh is a pedophile (or was?) but with the millions of molestations that have happened in the past to millions of other people, there's nothing special.. or NEW that makes THIS molestation story "NEWS".

Media Bias Side note: When Trayvon Martin was in the news for being shot, he was 16 years old and the "news" media called him a "child". Michael Brown was 17 or 18 years old when he tried to murder a police officer in Ferguson, MO. Yet, he was called a "teen" or a "kid" on every news channel. But Josh Duggar who committed his crime at 14 years old, for some reason, is never characterized as a "child" or a "teen". By omission, the media purposely leads people to believe Duggar was an adult when he molested his sisters. Not defending Duggar, just condemning the way the media assassinates some people (like White, Christian, conservatives) while people in other demographics (even killers) are treated differently in the news media. I always thought that was called racism, so I am officially calling "Shenanigans".

3 - The last words of the Boston terrorist shot by cops were: "I CAN'T BREATHE". His family then goes on TV saying cops "Shot him in the back". The media never verifies family claim, but runs with the story and quote as fact to make cops look bad. Media side note: It's interesting that the terrorist have learned exactly how to play into the fake narrative of the "news media" with "I can't breathe" and "cops shoot a black man in the back". It's obvious, after studying how the media reacted to Ferguson and Baltimore, that they are taking advantage of the media "Dog whistle" issues and have worked it into their terror schemes. Hmmmm. And you wonder why I call the American news media "seditious"?


2 - Denny Hastert "accused" of sexual molestation. A) It's an ACCUSATION, accusations are NOT NEWS. FACTS are news. When FACTS come out about what a scum bag Denny Hastert was, THEN it will be news. Till then, it's gossip and rumor... oh and NOT NEWS.

#1 - BRUCE JENNER: Bruce Jenner. There were famous transgenders during WWII, this isn't exactly groundbreaking and it certainly isn't NEW. It has no news value and shouldn't have been on any show other than TMZ. As a side note: The media, Hollywood, and Bruce Jenner himself may want everyone to pretend he's someone else, but he's not someone else. All the surgery and makeup and hormones cannot erase Bruce Jenner. People can call him "she" all they want. You can pretend Bruce Jenner never existed and call him Caitlyn if it makes you feel better about yourself. But, that doesn't change the fact that he's STILL Bruce Jenner. Pretending he's not doesn't make it so.

LAWRENCE - ITS A BOY! Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera and his wife, Paula announced last month the birth of their first child. Daniel Edward Rivera was born at Winchester Hospital on Friday, May 15th, weighing 8 pounds. CONGRATULATIONS!

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Massachusetts Secretary of State Bill Galvin appeared at a hearing on public records last month and said he agrees there should be penalties for officials who refuse to release public documents but then said we should limit the amount of records that the public can request. Galvin himself has concealed public documents about his own spending on TV commercials at election time.

GR. LOWELL MUSIC THEATRE PUTS ON "ANYTHING GOES!" June 26-27, featuring Valley Patriot political cartoonist David Sullivan of Dracut. Dave plays "Moonface". Also starring Jessica Dee as "Reno," Dallyn Vail Bayles as "Billy," Kelley Berman as "Erma," Peyton Haley James as "Hope," and John Manning as "Evelyn!" Give us a call at (978) 319-8867 or visit our WEB SITE to purchase tickets!

And don't forget Eddie Mekka in A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM, July 31, August 1 & 2. Visit on line to get tickets to both shows!

EVENTS AT THE SALEM, NH VFW:

Jun 12, Meat Raffle, 7pm. June 14, Penny social, 1pm. June 19, Just Harry Music Ensemble. \$5 donation at door, 7-10pm. June 26, Meat Raffle, 7-10pm. Every Saturday, Live country, \$5 donation at door. Salem, NH VFW Post 8546 is located at 42 N. Broadway, Salem, NH, 03079. Call (603) 898-7924 or email cfeole75@gmail.com. Open at 10am, 7 days a week.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON COMMON CORE - Saturday, June 20, 10:30-Noon - Common Core Pro/Con Panel Discussion, sponsored by Common Core Forum. Note: This event is a direct result of the Northborough-Southborough Regional School Committee's resistance to a public airing of this important issue. Frustrated citizens created a Petition asking School Committee members if they would attend a public discussion. See article below for

the Committee's incredible response and the actual Petition (signed by 412 citizens over one weekend). The discussion will be held at the Northborough Free Library, Library, 34 Main Street. Please RSVP to jcomara@gmail.com and spread the word, especially via social media.

PULBIC COURT RECORDS: The Trial Court Public Access to Court Records Committee will hold an open hearing on June 15 to consider comments concerning access to publicly available court case records.

Chief Justice Paula M. Carey appointed the committee to develop and propose uniform Trial Court rules governing the public's access to view or copy court case records, including paper and electronic case records, in a courthouse and on the Internet, consistent with current state laws, court rules and appellate court decisions.

The hearing will be held from 4-6pm, on the second floor of the Suffolk County Superior Courthouse, 3 Pemberton Square, Boston. Those interested in speaking at the hearing should register by June 10 via email to PublicInfo@sjc.state.ma.us.

Prior to the hearing, registrants will receive a time frame for their appearance. Comments should be limited to 10 minutes; the committee welcomes written submissions separately or to supplement

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 32

BOOK REVIEW BY SUSAN PIAZZA

Susan Piazza
FORMER VALLEY PATRIOT VETER-
ANS BENEFITS COLUMNIST


"Call Down the Moon" Soulmate Series Book 1 by Mary Gillgannon Published by: The Wild Rose Press 2014 through their First Faery Rose Edition Genre: Reincarnation / Time Travel Available in both Tablet and Paperback Rating: 4.5 bookmarkers out of 5 for writing. Some violence. Some sexual content.

Connor, a prince, and Aisling, a healer, fall in love in Ireland in the ninth century. Circumstances, prejudice, and fear lead to a tragic ending in that life-time. But Connor is unwilling to lose the love of his life. He conspires with Siobhan, Aisling's sister in that former life, to find her and reunite with her. A sword and magic transport him to present day Denver where he awaits the reunion.

This could have been just another time travel book of which there are soooo many but Mary Gillgannon weaves many elements into her story. She blends The Society of Creative Anachronism and their involvement with Medieval Fairs and the Wiccan Religion and their covens very effectively. These additions add a deeper dimension to her work.

The way she turns a phrase is lyrical. I am a voracious reader and she is one of the better word arrangers I have read. She has a definite flair with words. An example is on page 40, "The green of his eyes had turned stormy and wild. She felt herself fall into the rolling sea of his gaze."

Her intimate scenes are well done. They are sensual and erotic. Drawn out and visual. Wording is pleasant and not guttery. Think old school Playboy not Hustler.



I loved this book! Spent a few foggy days; instead of sleeping I read. I could not put it down. This actually presented a problem. I found several editing mistakes. Though her writing was great the editing was not. There were several sections that were repeated and not at the beginning and end of the book where it would not be obvious. They came only a chapter or so apart (actually about twenty pages apart). Several sentences were exactly as they were written pages before. In another part she used a contraction for "didn't" whereas in the prior section she did not but it was verbatim otherwise oh, except for that earlier "and" in the middle of a sentence.

SPOILER ALERT: Then there was an issue at the end of the book. Page 261 has Siobhan and Megan vanish after dying. The next paragraph has Barbara's body disappear after she dies. "Almost immediately after the three women had vanished, Rowan had taken charge." The next part has the women of the coven going back to perform a cleaning ceremony "before burying Barbara's body".

Huh? What body, the one that disappeared? The fourth paragraph has them returning to the stone circle only to find that Barbara's body had vanished. (I thought it vanished two paragraphs before!) The next page tries to explain why the coven women could not find the body. Again, huh? The three bodies vanished while the coven was there and before Rowan took command.

How were these mistakes not caught? I read this book twice, once for pleasure, once to focus on the review. Even with the flaws I enjoyed this book immensely. The story ended well and left room for a couple of different spin offs. I'll let you know how the next book in the series goes when it comes out. Hopefully the editorial problems will be fixed by then.



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Lawrence's State House Delegation Opens City Hall Office

Residents looking for help or support from their state senator or state representatives can now find it at City Hall.

The Lawrence delegation has opened a local office at Lawrence City Hall, 200 Common St., Mayor Daniel Rivera and the city's state delegation announced.

The office – Room 203 on the second floor – is to be shared by Sen. Barbara L'Italien and state representatives Marcos Devers, Frank Moran and Diana DiZoglio.

The delegation along with Mayor Rivera plan to hold a grand opening of the office June 12 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. They plan to invite community groups and the event is open to the public.

"I am delighted to have our state delegation working under the same roof," Mayor Rivera said. "This will allow us to take on a more collaborative approach to solving both municipal and federal inquiries that

our residents may have. I welcome Sen. L'Italien and Representatives Devers, Moran and DiZoglio to City Hall as we work together to make Lawrence better."

Sen. L'Italien said she plans to have a daily presence at City Hall and that her staff will be available to meet residents there during regular City Hall hours.

"As I traveled around the district last year it became clear to me that I wanted a full time presence in Lawrence to help our residents access state services," said Sen. L'Italien.

The city's senator and state representatives receive hundreds of phone calls and emails every week seeking help on everything from finding emergency food and housing, to applying for food stamps, state health care benefits and handicapped license plates, to seeking job training and job placement resources, to name just a

"Having a local office for the city's residents was a priority of mine and I'm pleased Mayor Rivera has been so helpful in making it happen," said L'Italien, a former four-term state representative who last year was elected Lawrence's senator and began serving in January. "Anyone who needs our assistance or just wants to say hello and meet my staff is welcome to stop by."

~ State Senator Barbara L'Italien



few, "A lot of what I do is help people navigate the state bureaucracy, help them figure out if they qualify for some benefit and then connect them to the resources they need," said Joseph Thibodeau, one of Sen. L'Italien's two constituent aides who live in the Merrimack Valley. "If someone has applied for something, I can check to see if their application had been received and what the holdup might be."

Sen. L'Italien said her constituent aide

Maria De La Cruz will be her primary staff member at the City Hall office. De La Cruz, who is originally from the Dominican Republic, now lives in Lawrence and is very active in the community.

Anyone who wants to meet with De La Cruz or another member of Sen. L'Italien's may call De La Cruz at (978) 303-7243 or the senator's Boston office at (617) 722-

L'ITALIEN: PAGE 16

Veteran Receives First NECC Challenge Coin

Recent Northern Essex Community College graduate and U.S. Army Veteran Justin Merced of Lawrence was the first recipient of NECC's Veterans' Services newly created "Challenge Coin" given in recognition of outstanding achievement. NECC Veteran's Services Coordinator Jeff Williams presented him with the challenge coin.

In the United States military, it is custom for unit commanders to typically use challenge coins in recognition of service members' outstanding performance or achievement, according to Williams.

"By presenting the coin in front of

the recipient's peers, commanders show that hard work is rewarded and build morale within the unit," said Williams. "The intent behind the NECC Veterans' Services coins is to provide a familiar method of recognition to student veterans and military students for their academic and on-campus achievements. It demonstrates that their accomplishments do not go unnoticed and benefits their success by building a supportive on-campus environment."

Williams says Merced was the obvious choice to receive the first NECC Veterans' Services Challenge Coin. Merced was

the President of the NECC Veterans' and Service Persons' Organization. He was also the NECC Student Commencement speaker during Northern Essex's 53rd Annual Commencement Exercises in May.

"Justin's academic success and heavy involvement in NECC's student life are outstanding examples for others to follow," says Williams. "I truly appreciate Justin's efforts to raise the visibility of student veterans and military at NECC and wish him the best of luck for the future."

Merced graduated with high honors with an associate degree in liberal arts with a concentration in writing. He served

as vice president of the NECC student senate, he was a representative on the all college assembly, served on the advisory board to NECC president Lane Glenn, was vice president of Phi Theta Kappa, the community college honor society, and participated in the Honors Experience. He was also recently honored at the State House with a 29 Who Shine Award, recognizing his remarkable success as a student and leader.

He will transfer to Rutgers University in the fall where he will enroll in the premed program.

Fired Lawrence Counselor Wants to be Made Whole

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

A fired guidance counselor in the Lawrence Public Schools, Brenda Sudol-Kirwin, won an arbitration hearing against the schools in August of 2013, for sick leave for injuries she incurred while working in the schools.

But Kirwin says the issue is not over and wanted to go public about the abuse she endured by the Lawrence Public Schools.

Kirwin says that the bullying took place from May to November of 2009, and she is still trying to be made whole from the incidents that caused her to lose her job as she is still suffering from PTSD as the result of her bullying.

Initially, Kirwin filed a grievance with the Lawrence Teachers' Union. Then, she claims, that Lawrence Schools denied her sick leave for her injuries according to her teachers' contract. This took place before sending her to a doctor for evaluation.

At the time the Lawrence School Department did not have workers' compensation and were handling all claims internally.

Kirwin says they finally sent her to a doctor, Psychiatrist Dr. Kelley.

Kirwin's injury was not just physical, she says, but more emotional and psychological.

CONFIDENTIALITY

"I had, and still have panic attacks, anxiety, depression, sleep disorders and psychological issues dealing with everyday living. That's not just me saying that, but the psychiatrists I have seen since this all happened. It was all due to the harassment and bullying I endured at the hands of my principal. I was trying to protect parents' rights and students rights to confidentiality."



According to the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Social Workers 20.09 regulation and 258 CMR, the license of a social worker, [which includes school guidance counselors] can be at risk for disclosing confidential information.

"What they did was, try to force me to disclose confidential information about my students to state agencies without getting releases signed by the parents. When I refused, my principal Donna Dooley told me 'This isn't going to work, you and me'. She also wanted me to disclose confidential information via computer to outside agencies and when I refused she retaliated against me. She made my life a living hell."

Kirwin says that the confidential information Dooley wanted her to release included students' names and other information and that Assistant Superintendent Mary Lou Bergeron (who was the acting superintendent at the time) had informed us that that information never be put on the computer to outside agencies.

Bergeron said at the time that the schools had blanket releases from the parents "and that just isn't true", Kirwin said. "I know, because I was on the committee that formed the releases for the counseling department and those had to be forwarded to the legal department."

Arbitration documents obtained by The Valley Patriot show that the arbitrator agreed Kirwin was bullied by her principal at the Oliver School.

Kirwin also currently has an accidental disability case with the teachers' retire-

ment board, which was denied but an appeal is pending.

"I am convinced that Dooley's abusive and inappropriate conduct caused the grievant [Kirwin] stress and injury" Arbitrator Tammy Brynie said in her ruling.

"Notably, Dr. Kelly opined that if the Grievant's claim about hostile and abusive treatment were accurate, her symptoms would be appropriate and understandable." "Further, significant aspects of the Grievant's account about her treatment at the Oliver School, and her examples of Dooley's conduct and behavior were corroborated by sequested witnesses."

Kirwin's claim is that because of her psychological injuries at the hands of principal Donna Beth Dooley she cannot work anymore.

Other Lawrence Public School employees testified that the Oliver School, at the time, was a hostile work environment and confirmed that Kirwin was harassed and bullied by her principal.

Testifying at the arbitration hearing against the school system were guidance counselor Tracy Gresser, parent liaison Milagros Rodriguez, Cathy Fisher, and Maureen Santiago of the Oliver School.

"Tracey was very courageous as were all the employees who testified to the abuse that we all endured at the hands of Donna Beth Dooley. I say courageous, because they were being bullied and harassed as well."

"As a side note, not one Lawrence Public School employee testified on behalf of Principal Donna Beth Dooley."

"After testifying in my case some of these employees were retaliated against because of their testimony"

UNSAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT?

Kirwin says that this is, and has been,

KIRWIN: PAGE 28



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Methuen Schools to Start Before Labor Day

By D.J. Deeb, M.A., M.S., M.Ed.
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The end of the school year is always an exciting time for students, parents, teachers, and support staff. May and June are always busily filled months with awards nights, orientations, and planning for the next year. Many exciting changes are being planned for the 2015-2016 school year.

First off, I am pleased to report that after much discussion and soliciting input from parents, teachers, union officials, and support staff, it has been decided that Methuen Public Schools will begin before Labor Day in 2015-2016. Labor Day is late this year and falls on Monday, September 7th. It has thus been decided that Methuen Public Schools will reopen for faculty and staff on Monday, August 31st and for students on Tuesday, September 1st. Staff and students will have an extra long weekend in order to wrap-up Summer by having Friday, September 4th off. Those three days prior will allow teachers to distribute books and materials, review protocols, and send home papers to be signed. Staff and students can then hit the ground running when they return from the long Labor Day weekend break on Tuesday, September 8th. With this calendar, the 180th instructional day will be Wednesday, June 15th and the 185th instructional day (if all snow days are used) will be Wednesday, June 20th. This affords plenty of extra time in planning for snow days if next winter proves to be similar to the one we just had. Let's certainly hope that is not the case and everyone gets out on June 15th. Finally, the new calendar eliminates 2-3 early release days to afford students more instructional time. A special thanks to the nearly 1800 parents and 460 teachers who responded to an Administrative survey in giving input on the new calendar as well as union officials for working collaboratively with the administration to address mutual concerns.

Congratulations to Rich Barden, Methuen High School Assistant Principal, who was recently appointed Principal of Methuen High School. Rich grew up in Wilmington, graduated from Methuen High School, and currently resides with his family in Reading. Mr. Barden greatly

impressed the members of the Principal Selection Committee with his extensive knowledge of the district, skills, and ideas for innovation.

On another note, I want to express my extreme disappointment with members of the Methuen Board of Health who recently voted unanimously to raise the tobacco purchasing age to 21. This includes electronic cigs. At first glance this may seem like a good idea, but this will only serve to hurt local businesses that are already seeing many customers cross the border to purchase items in tax-free New

Hampshire. One store owner, Hem Vora, of Route 110 Convenience estimates a loss of revenue of \$1,500-\$2,000 weekly with customers ages 18-20 going to New Hampshire to purchase these items. We need to be doing more to attract local businesses and help existing ones given the number of socialist regulations that already exist in the People's Republic of Massachusetts. The fact remains that at 18 you are considered an adult. You can vote, enter the military, buy a house, take a loan, sign legal paperwork, etc. I am not going to be a hypocrite like some people on this issue. I enjoy smoking my cigars and do so regularly. If you choose to buy tobacco or nicotine products on your own time off public grounds that is and should be your choice at 18 years old. It already is and should be illegal for adults over 18 to purchase tobacco or nicotine products for anyone under the age of 18. How is it that an unelected board (Methuen Board of Health) can pass a rule like this without going to the City Council or the voters? The city needs to investigate this further and look at revamping the entire Board of Health structure and membership in Methuen.

D.J. Deeb is a Methuen resident and member of the Methuen School Committee. Deeb is an Adjunct Professor of History/Government at Bunker Hill Community College and an Adjunct Political Science Instructor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He teaches Social Studies full-time at Reading Memorial High School. He is the author of Israel, Palestine, and the Quest for Middle East Peace (University Press, 2013) and The Collapse of Middle East Peace (IUniverse, 2003).



Strong Support at State House Hearing to Improve Access to Public Information

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Massachusetts gets an F grade for access to public records according to some very respected public interest groups. A number of bills have been filed to change this including legislation filed by Senator Ives and co-sponsored by both Representative DiZoglio and myself. As a member of the committee hearing these bills (The committee on State Administration), I am confident that legislation will emerge from this two-year session to improve things.

At the local level, the lack of penalties for not providing reasonably available public documents sometimes results in financial losses of great magnitude to individuals and families when much needed information regarding zoning and matters affecting personal property could not be obtained in a timely manner. A family from Salisbury testified at the hearing explaining how their inability to gain access to local public records resulted in the bankruptcy of their business along with their savings.

Equally important are the artificial barriers erected against the press as they attempt to investigate important matters of public concern. Some reporters testified that obtaining information pertaining to law enforcement personnel is especially problematic.

Our Tom Duggan testified about the negative effect delays have, citing specific cases in Lawrence and North Andover. Other well-known media personalities from leading publications, including the Boston Globe, testified in regards what they perceive to be an abuse of the law by

the State, in both the Executive Branch and Legislature.

Finally, the cost of obtaining information appears to have been made prohibitively high in many cases, even too expensive for the Boston Globe according to testimony provided by one award winning Globe investigative reporter.

Several bills have been submitted on this topic and the most important component is that there are enforceable penalties for noncompliance. Some of the major provisions follow:

- * Enforceable non-compliance penalties if information is supplied within 30 days;
- * Requirement for a record access officer in each agency and methods for electronic record keeping;
- * Reduction of fees for photocopies and printouts, which stipulate that the custodian may only charge for actual costs of preparation;
- * Attorney fees in any litigation will be paid by the losing party;
- * State agencies must publicly post records on the Internet whenever possible;
- * A Commission with House and Senate membership will be established to analyze best practices from other states.

Representative Campbell serves on the Committee on Ways and Means, is the Vice Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security and serves on the committees of State Administration and New Technology and Economic Development.

Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov/617.722.2304. representative.linda.campbell@gmail.com Officials, advocates call for reform to Massachusetts' public records law.

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Patriotism Lives

John MacDonald
VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

This past Memorial Day weekend I traveled down to a campground in Rhode Island. It's a place called Holiday Acres and it has a lot of seasonal campers year round and, of course, many weekenders during weekends in the summer. Those of us who have made the decision and financial commitment to be seasonal campers have developed friendships over the years. Most of us have families, still have kids in school and spend time at the camp during the summer. We do a lot of fishing, make s'mores and sit by the campfire as a way to keep us all close.

I'd love to say that I spend every weekend at the camp, but I don't. There is always something happening during the summer that prevents me from being at the camp, whether it be family commitments, work, or something unforeseen. On Memorial Day I usually attend events before or after the weekend, to honor those who have passed and served our great nation. Long weekends are rare and the kids are only young once, so spending time with the family is a priority for me.

My wife and I are both veterans. She served in the Navy and I served in the Air Force. Both of us feel a deep sense of pride in our country and are very patriotic. We've both make a personal commitment to veterans in our own way and feel that we do live in the greatest nation on earth. However when I watch various negative news stories on television or read about anti-patriotic acts that involve burning the flag, it troubles me. Or when I hear the President tell the world that we're no better than any other country, it doesn't give me a great sense of confidence that my wife and I are in the "patriotic majority" anymore. I often feel that patriotism is a dying sentiment unfortunately.

Then... a surprise.
Several weeks before Memorial Day weekend, we were approached by a fellow camper by the name of Chris Hines. Chris is a veteran of the Army and an all-around great guy. Chris is an extremely creative guy that makes military shadow boxes in his spare time and we can both spend countless hours reminiscing about our days in the military. He asked my wife Dawn and I if we would help with a flag retirement ceremony on Memorial Day at the campground. Of course we said yes, but I kept my opinion of a "waning sense of patriotism in this country" to myself. Chris spent weeks in preparation, often checking in with me and seeing what I thought about various ideas. Week after week Chris would drive around the campground and promote the campground's first US Flag Retirement Ceremony. "Bring your old flags and let's pay our respects," he'd say to those who would listen.

So, Memorial Day came. Dawn and I arrived fifteen minutes early, before noon at the campfire pit, which has a huge flagpole planted into the ground right behind

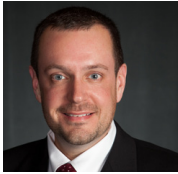
it. Chris was there already prepared with flags neatly folded into triangles and had arranged a war memorial battle cross of boots, a rifle and helmet used to memorialize fallen comrades in arms. As we arrived there wasn't much of a crowd. My suspicions of "waning patriotism" seemed to be a reality. I had a sinking feeling that it would only be Chris's family and mine, retiring flags.

Then just minutes before noon a crowd started forming. People started walking over to the fire pit and golf carts pulled into the field. Chris got the ceremony underway precisely at noon and started reading through the program he had written by hand. He then asked my wife and I to do our parts. Symbolically, Chris had unstitched a US flag separating the white stripes, red stripes and the field of blue. Each part was retired to the fire and saluted by veterans. As the ceremony went on, the crowd was asked to participate by taking pieces of other flags and retiring them to the fire. Again each piece was saluted as it entered the flames. Then the flags that were collected for months were each individually retired.

Something magical happened. A crowd of ten turned into a crowd of one hundred. Kids came dressed in Cub Scout and Boy Scout uniforms. Other children and teenagers looked on with interest and even some voluntarily participated. One young teen brought his trombone and played God Bless America while masses of campers, both weekenders and seasonal of all ages succumbed to their patriotic pride as they knelt down to retire weathered old US flags. Some people were visibly shaken to tears as others stood solemnly silent and watched as Old Glory waved high above us all, flapping in the wind. It was all so very surreal.

The ceremony ended with almost everyone thanking Chris and the rest of us who participated in helping him. People shook Chris's hand and patted him on the back. A tremendous sense of pride, patriotism and appreciation seemed to wash over even the most hardened camper that afternoon. I'll be honest... I was surprised and yes, a bit relieved. Almost everyone asked that a Flag Retirement Ceremony, become an annual event at Holiday Acres Campground. As long as Chris is around I'm sure it will be.

So in closing, thank you to Chris Hines for showing me and everyone else that ... Patriotism Lives!



John MacDonald is the President/CEO of Big Decisions, LLC, which is a management consulting business that concentrates on offering strategic advice on Marketing, Public Relations, Economic/ Business Development and Social Media. John has a long career of success, achieving record results in the communications field and spending over 20 years managing marketing budgets, driving the bottom line in the financial services, restaurant, retail and real estate industries.

“WEATHER 101” WITH AL! What do all those weather terms MEAN?

Al Kaprielian
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

On a surface weather map we commonly see what we call "fronts".

A front is caused by differences in air pressure in the atmosphere. Fronts separate two different air masses.

An air mass is defined as a region of air where the air around it has similar temperatures and dew points.

Dew point refers to how much moisture is in the air expressed in degrees. When the temperature and dew point are both the same 45/45 the air is totally saturated with moisture.

Warm air is lighter and rises and holds more moisture.

Cooler air is heavier and sinks and holds less moisture.

TYPES OF WEATHER FRONTS
There are different types of fronts.

There are cold fronts, warm fronts, occluded fronts and stationary fronts.

A cold front brings cooler & less humid air into the region. A warm front brings warmer, more humid air into the region. An occluded front occurs when the cold front catches up and overtakes the warm front. A stationary front means a front has stalled (stopped moving) in the atmosphere. This is usually the result of the winds in the upper atmosphere being parallel to the front. Cold fronts usually move from west to east but not always.

A backdoor cold front can occur most often in the spring and it usually moves from northeast to southwest. A backdoor cold front can be the result of differences between the temperature of the land versus the ocean. Remember, the ocean warms more slowly than land in the spring because of evaporation and mixing.

The ocean is a fluid, which causes it to constantly move. Due to the fact that the ocean constantly moves it takes more heat from the sun to warm the ocean one degree versus the land.

Evaporation occurs every day (365 days) over the ocean. Evaporation is a cooling process in that it cools the air over the ocean.

LAND vs OCEAN AIR MASSES

Since the ocean is colder than the land in the spring months, this causes the air to be heavier and more dense over the ocean. Meanwhile, the air is warmer and lighter over the land areas. This causes an imbalance of air pressure and hence, a front forms.

The colder air over the ocean has a higher air pressure in that it is denser. The warmer air over the land is lighter and therefore has lower pressure.

With the approach of a backdoor cold front, there can be some gusty winds. Winds are also caused by differences in



air pressure. The wind direction ahead of the backdoor cold front is usually south/southwest. Behind the front, winds shift to northeast/east and temperatures can drop sharply.

Fronts cause clouds and precipitation because there is a clash between warmer air and cooler air. This clashing of warmer & cooler air causes an imbalance for the atmosphere. Warm air & cool air are opposites. The atmosphere wants to be balanced and when fronts approach, it is no longer balanced. This imbalance causes clouds and precipitation to form.

Clouds form when the air rises. As this air rises it cools due to expansion (the spreading out of air). When the air cools, this causes it to cool to the dewpoint.

When this occurs, the air is totally saturated and as a result, condensation occurs. This condensation causes moisture to form in the way of clouds. When the clouds grow and get large enough, they cannot hold any more water droplets so the clouds burst and then rain falls, or in the winter months it can be snow/sleet.

PRECIPITATION
In the winter, the precipitation can be snow. Fronts usually bring unsettled weather with clouds and precipitation because there is a clash between two different air masses.

When fronts stall (stop moving) this can cause rain and unsettled weather to continue for a few to sometimes several days. An example is May 31 into June of this year, when a cold front stalled just south of New England.

In conclusion, fronts usually bring unsettled weather and in the spring and summer thunderstorms, which can become severe and produce tornadoes can occur along and ahead of a cold front. Fronts can play an important role in our weather and can bring an end to sunshine and a dry stretch of weather. Next time you see fronts on a surface weather map, I feel this article will give you a much better understanding of how they can impact our weather.

L'ITALIEN FROM 12

1612 to schedule an appointment at the Lawrence office.

"I am truly delighted about the opening of a local office for the Lawrence legislative delegation," said Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) who also represents Lawrence. "I encourage residents who would like to meet with me at City Hall to discuss issues of concern to call my State House office at (617) 722-2060 to schedule an appointment."

"This office will serve as a one-stop shop for constituents to connect to their representatives on Beacon Hill," said Rep. Moran, who represents parts of Andover and Methuen in addition to Lawrence. "I am very grateful that Mayor Rivera was

able to assist the delegation in streamlining the legislative process for the residents of Lawrence."

Rep. Devers said his aide Jorge Cruz plans to be at City Hall on Friday's from 9 a.m. to noon. Residents may also contact Rep. Devers anytime at (617) 722-2030 or email at Jorge.Cruz@MAhouse.gov. "This will be an asset to our Community and I am profoundly grateful to Mayor Rivera for his openness and collaboration in helping to connect members of the community with their state delegation," Rep. Devers said. "My office is committed to this community and I look forward to seeing and attending our community's needs."

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HEROIN: FROM PAGE 9

presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Marina Moriarty, of AG Healey’s Enterprise and Major Crimes Division, with assistance from State Police assigned to the AG’s Office, the Massachusetts State Police Transportation Drug Unit (TDU), the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Lawrence Police Department and the AG’s Digital Evidence Lab.



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An Interview with Gov. Jim Gilmore

Homeland Security in the Hometown of a Flying Ace

PART I

Alex Talcott
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PRESIDENTS AWARD WINNER

Dover, New Hampshire’s McConnell Center is named for the late Air Force Captain Joseph C. McConnell, a local credited with shooting down 16 enemy aircraft during the Korean War before dying in a test flight. I met there with Cold War era Army intelligence veteran Jim Gilmore, who also served as Governor of Virginia (1998-2002) and is exploring a second run for the presidency.

Forming committees or commissions is made light of as inactivity, a joke. You’re proud of your leadership of the “Gilmore Commission” [Congressional Advisory Panel to Assess Domestic Capabilities for Terrorism Involving Weapons of Mass Destruction, 1999-2003] and mentioned it before your governorship during your announcement of candidacy for president in the 2008 cycle. There was some efficacy to it, as compared to the Simpson-Bowles Commission, with – as of a few years ago you said – 146 of 164 recommendations adopted by the Congress to some extent.

The Commission was highly professional. It wasn’t your typical Washington politicians’ commission. A lot of those commissions are intended to showboat. A lot of them are intended to promote the leadership in some way. And that takes away from the validity or the efficacy of the commission report because people are saying, “Well that’s just the chairman trying to get some press or something like that.” Our commission was a long commission. It was a total of five years. And what that means is that we had plenty of time to hear people, to bring in witnesses, to do investigations. The Rand Corporation was doing its studies. We met periodically. And we were careful. We had a long time. And you can see from the five reports the way we built one on top of the other.

The first report assessed the threat, the second report demanded a national strategy, and the third report actually began to develop the national strategy and all this under the radar. Not even the congressional people that delegated it really cared all that much about it until the 9/11 attacks.

Some people speak of a pre-9/11 mindset, a 9/10 mindset. I look at the 1999 first report and the name of the panel—“Weapons of Mass Destruction” ... “Domestic ... Terrorism”...

Frankly, the threats are on the page. You can see that our warning was—look, it may not be very easy for the enemy to get a nuclear weapon, but the chance of a conventional attack against this country is highly probable. It was considered highly probable.

People are familiar with stories of the heroism of the NYPD and firefighters of New York, but less so with the first responders to the Pentagon. Can you tell the story of your and their actions on September 11th?

The governor of Virginia has a big-picture responsibility to make sure that the whole state was protected. And that meant that we had to set up the emergency operation center immediately. Therefore you put the structures in place to look for the next attack. I directed that any gunplay in the state be reported immediately to Central Facility. We activated the National Guard. We warned people around the state. We began public communication in order to calm the people and have them understand that people were in charge and they’re working hard to protect them.

The immediate attack – which was a surprise attack, right? – That’s why it succeeded. It was a surprise attack, just like the one in New York. ...[I]t killed a lot of people. And there you had to do exactly what we foresaw in the Gilmore Commission report. The responders have to be the police, fire, rescue, and emergency services. That’s what it has to be. That’s what it was at the Pentagon. It wasn’t the federal people that responded. It was the state people. It was local people. The police departments, the fire trucks. Essentially, the fire trucks.

My experience of course was that not only did I do the big picture things in Richmond, but I had to, I went to the Pentagon. I walked into the smoking hole after the fire was out. I saw what was going on. I visited people in the hospital and made sure everybody knew I was doing it, because we wanted to make sure that that people knew we cared about the people who were hurt. They told us the stories. One of the most vivid stories I remember was a burned woman who said that she was sitting at her desk and in the blink of an eye the whole world changed. And she was suddenly consumed in smoke and fire and had to find a way to get out. And you know in a way that’s an allegory for the

GILMORE: PAGE 29



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Left to right... #1 Our good friend Kamal Jain with his Valley Patriot. Kamal passed away recently, our condolences to his friends and family. #2 John Sapienza of Pizza King on Salem St., in Lawrence, shows that you can always get The Valley Patriot at Pizza King. #3 Manchester, NH Mayor Ted Gatsas. #4 Billerica State Representative Marc Lombardo, who denies he's a fan of The Valley Patriot, but I think we know better now, don't we?



Doctors Express North Andover was a co-sponsor of last month's Merrimack Valley Relay for Life. Their sponsorship and team raised approximately \$3,000 for cancer research. Doctors Express is in North Andover, Methuen and Lawrence.



Valley Patriot Lawrence High School Scholarship Winners: (Left) Ramses Jiminez the 2014 Valley Patriot Scholarship winner was on hand this year to present our \$450 scholarships to Chris Pichardo and Caroline Garcia. — at Lawrence High School Campus.

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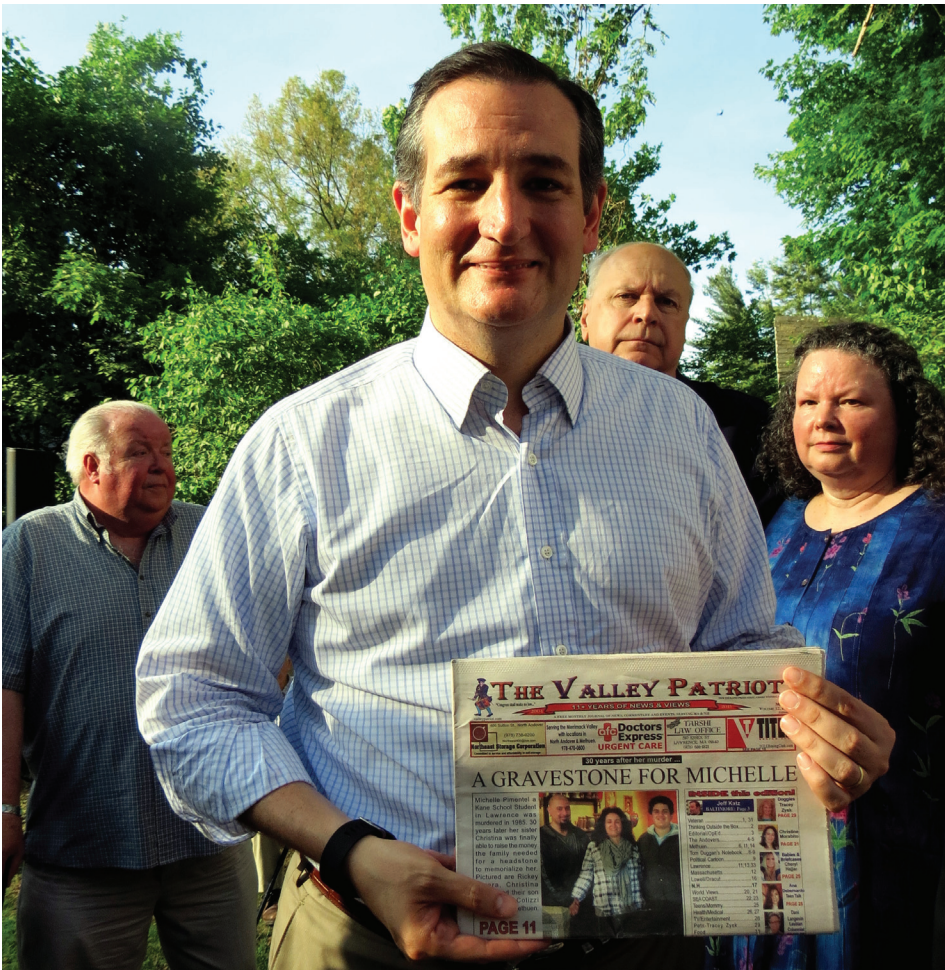
Methuen State Representative Diana DiZoglio is becoming quite the celebrity. Last month she was out on the town with Star Trek's Levar Burton, who played Jordi LaForge.



Chris from Mal's Barber Shop on Main St. in North Andover with Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan.



Another successful Taste of Methuen last month at the National Guard Armory. From the Greater Lawrence Tech is: Scott, Marlana Majia, Edward Perez, and Juan Gonzalez. Taste of Methuen is sponsored by the Methuen Exchange Club.



Presidential Candidate, Texas Senator Ted Cruz was in Andover last month (a full story is coming next month) and he made sure to take his copy of The Valley Patriot back to Texas with him so he could keep up with all the news!

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Ye Gay Ol' Valley

Merrimack Valley's Queer Youth

Dani Langiven
VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

Last month I had the pleasure of visiting Methuen High School and sitting in on a meeting of the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance). Several of my colleagues and I are currently organizing such a group at the Marsh Grammar School and wanted to see one in action. I was very excited to go for a number of reasons: to see how these groups function, to gather ideas on how we'd like the Marsh's group to be organized and run, and to see some of my old students.

Caroline Mulligan, a former student of mine, has been the GSA president for the past two years. Advisors for the GSA are faculty members Jackie Mokaba and Michael Coco. The group consisted of about twelve students in various grades, stages of sexual acceptance/transition, and identities.

The meeting began with each member introducing him or herself, stating the pronouns they prefer being referred to by and answering a "fun" question. The fun question was, "What did you have for lunch today." Myself and one other faculty member from the Marsh were there as observers.

Most of the members chose to be referred by the pronouns assigned to them by nature. One member, female by nature, requested to be referred to by male pronouns. I was intrigued and impressed by such a young individual being comfortable enough and courageous enough to be honest about their preferred title.

After meeting with them I had hoped to come to at least another meeting or two but, to my disappointment and due to my schedule, I was not able to attend any of their last few meetings. I sent Ms. Mulligan a few questions to pose to the group and received prompt and honest responses.

The first question I posed was, "What is the group's philosophy and objectives? Every single one of them answered in the same manor: To offer a safe environment. This statement is both encouraging and disconcerting in its obvious simplicity. It is encouraging because we have a large public school seeing the need to offer a safe place for its LGBTQ students and organizing one. Yet it is disconcerting because there is the need for one. Why do our LGBTQ students need a safe place to "feel welcome" and "be themselves"? The answer is just as simple as the question, because the natural school setting along with society does not provide that for them. How shameful.

The next question posed was, "What do you see is the biggest problem for the LGBTQ community? This is where the answers were quite varied which is testament to the adverse backlash this community gets from the rest of society. Bullying, discrimination, lack of open-mindedness, being ignored, social acceptance, not being accepted by friends and family, being told they are wrong, lack of respect, the media, and a lack of law protecting against discrimination in areas like housing and employment were their responses. These young adults ranging from what must be 14-18 years of age have a frighteningly keen grasp of what it is like to be a member of the LGBTQ community. Their experience of discrimination, hate and un-

acceptance is embarrassing and unacceptable in a country that has, "And freedom for all," in its pledge.

"What do you see for the future for the LGBTQ community?" Their answers were surprisingly and heartwarmingly optimistic. They all see a brighter future. One member wrote, "I like to think that over time, through enough education, that it'll be accepted. It may not happen when I'm alive, but it'll happen." Another wrote, "I would like to see LGBT+ issues lose their secret and shameful nature. There are other more serious changes I'd like to see nationwide, or even worldwide." A sentiment this columnist fully agrees with and applauds. Overall, these wonderful young adults are overwhelmingly positive about their future and the future of the up and coming LGBTQ that will continue to add to our general population but, also see that there are bigger issues than those they are personally facing.

I asked them what they aspired to in their own personal future. Once again, the list was varied with some thread of commonality. They aspired to become a game designer, philanthropist, illustrator, biologist and LGBTQ activist, scientist, English teacher, LGBTQ advocate, entertainer, and writer. Every one of them expressed making a change in this world and I have no doubt that they will. I know their impact will be positive.

My final two questions evoked the most heartfelt and moving responses, which I hoped they would: Do you have any messages for the people of the Merrimack Valley regarding the LGBTQ community? What could they do to help? What do you want them to understand the most? Several of them expressed the desire for those of us in the Merrimack Valley to, not necessarily accept who they are and how they define themselves, but respect them as human beings. One of them requested, "Be aware of what you say and what your words mean to those who hear them." Another stated, "We are humans just like you. We are the same flesh and bone that live on this planet. Please accept that. We cannot change." The response that touched me the most and I hope it does my readers was incredibly poignant, "Being in the LGBT community isn't like running through a field of flowers. It's difficult. You have to understand that we don't choose to be this way. We're human and just want to be loved and happy." In the end, isn't that what we all want?

All in all, I am very impressed with the youth of the LGBTQ community. I envy that they are "coming out" at this point in history. I hid myself for thirty years for fear of loss and retribution. I agree that the future is much more promising for them and that they will be more accepted and embraced by family, friends and society than in my generation. I applaud their courage, admire their strength, and am anxious to see what wonderful contributions they will bring to this world.



Dani Langevin is a teacher and has a Bachelors in Fine Art and Masters in Education. She has written four young adult novels, one of which is self-published. You can email Dani at Dani-BLangevin@aol.com

Beneath the Surface

How We Got Here: Disintegration is Death

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Two monumental things occurred this past week: the Irish vote on "same-sex marriage" and the media embrace of Bruce Jenner's claim to being a woman. How did we get here? As I've mentioned on my radio show Beneath the Surface, we have either entered an era of insanity, or enlightenment. Let us go beneath the surface to trace how western culture has recently evolved (or devolved) in what seems to be such a short time.

We start with the observation that integration is life. When bodily organs are integrated into one system it means life for the individual. The integrated union of man and woman in marriage means life for the family. The union of families gives life to community, social organizations, cities, and nations. Conversely, disintegration brings death, death to persons, marriages, families, communities, and nations. This fundamental principle and its rejection undergirds three precursors - two ideas and one material element - that radically changed our thinking on what it means to be human in merely two generations.

The first anthropological principle of disintegration is dualism, which separates person from body. It sees the inner and outer man as two entities, not one. Rather than recognizing the body as the physical manifestation of the person, the inner person with his feelings, desires, and psychological perceptions is given the green light to manipulate his body at will, as if the body is something superfluous like clothing. Bodily mutilation and acts contradicting proper bodily function become "optional" and are no longer understood to be self-abuse and symptoms of an objective disorder.

The second anthropological principle of disintegration is radical individualism, which separates individual from species. This means rejecting human nature as the common essence all people share. Rather than recognizing everyone sharing in the pool of humanity, we see ourselves as isolated individual beings without form or definition. Being human, therefore, means whatever each person says it means for them. There is no objective criteria, no natural law, by which to guide one's actions other than one's desires and will.

These two false philosophies of man - radical Dualism and radical Individualism - became popular in the 1960's and may now have reached their zenith. However, the dis-integration of person from body, and of individual from species, needed a material catalyst to enable them to be lived out. The only way the disintegration of body from soul, and of person from community, could be realized concretely is through closing the gap between indi-

vidual and community - a gap naturally bridged by family. In other words, if a way could be found to disintegrate sex from procreation and from marriage, the death of individual-family-community would be complete. The birth control pill was that material element.

The birth control pill was patented in 1960. Fifty years ago this week the Supreme Court legalized contraception in its Griswold vs. Connecticut decision. In the past 50 years, therefore, America has learned to separate love from life, ironically diminishing both. The disintegration of sex from baby-making provided the premise for approval for all "adult" activity for selfish fun, denigrating marriage and the family while also fueling the dualism and individualism of the modern era.

We now find ourselves in an intellectual quicksand with no out in sight. "Same sex marriage" must be accepted because homosexual acts cannot be seen as disordered. Transgenderism must be accepted because bodily manipulation mutilation have become the norm with contraception and sterilization. We can already hear the drum beat for polygamy, polyamory, pedophilia, and bestiality becoming accepted as logical extensions of the contraception mentality completing the disintegration principle.

As the material catalyst for the culture of death, the birth control pill has not only caused havoc on a woman's body ecology (<http://thepillkills.org/sideeffects.php>), not only has it enabled men to use women and marriage to be tainted, but in the past 50 years we have also gone from seeing love, marriage, sex, family, and community as integrated features of the natural order to entering an era of insanity and a culture of death.

The only way to reverse this 50 year curse, a quicksand that most do not even realize they are in, is to reject the foundation of this modern house of cards. Integration is life, and the pill kills (<http://thepillkills.org>). 50 years of ignorance and disintegration can be, and must be, reversed. Yet, since sanity will be seen more and more as "radical" and even blasphemous as we continue down this road, we must also pray for people of courage to stand up and challenge the prevailing mentality, just as the proverbial child told the emperor he had no clothes on.



Paul Murano teaches philosophy and ethics at North Shore Community College, hosts Beneath the Surface radio show Monday nights 9-11pm on 980 WCAP, has a Tv show on Burlington Cable Access, and co-hosts the Paying Attention! radio program with Tom Duggan. Paul is also chairman of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help in Burlington and is a singer/songwriter/musician. Email Paul at PJDM@aol.com.

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Public Records Should Be Made Available to the Public

Last week, I testified on a bill I filed, S.1700, An Act Relative to Obtaining Information, before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. This bill promotes access to information, available to all, within a reasonable time frame and for residents to have recourse in instances where their requests for public information are ignored.

Government should have transparency and accountability and the only way to ensure that this is occurring is to have access. Under Chapter 66 Section 10 of the Massachusetts General Law, a custodian has 10 days to comply with a request for public information. However, there are no significant penalties for non-compliance with this law.

This legislation would amend the Commonwealth's public records law by creating a \$50 fine for each day after the thirtieth day that a custodian of a public record

IN YOUR CORNER WITH SENATOR KATY IVES

does not comply with a supervisor's order to provide the public record that was requested. Additionally, the legislation provides that the non-compliant custodian shall assume any court costs incurred by a requestor after 60 days of the initial public records request, should the matter be referred to a court for consideration. The proposed penalties in this legislation would incentivize timely compliance with reasonable public records requests and encourages increased government transparency and accountability.

Another bill heard at the hearing was a bill filed by the House Chairman of the Committee, Representative Peter V. Kocot, H 2772, An Act to Improve Access to Public Records. H. 2772 would update the definition of a public record to include electronic information as well as designate

one or more records access officers to have custody of all public records whose names and pertinent contact information are to be posted conspicuously in offices and on websites. This bill would also clarify some of the egregious fees the public, as well as the press have been charged in obtaining public records.

Last year, my bill was incorporated into Chairman Kocot's bill and was reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. However, no further action was taken. In this new legislative session, I have made it one of my top priorities to increase government accountability and transparency across the board. This bill will strengthen the public's access to public records and that can only be a good thing. I will work to continue the momen-



State Senator Katy O'Connor Ives testifies for the bill she filed on behalf of Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan. S-1700 will fine public officials for violating the state's public records disclosure law.

tum gained through my bill's favorable recommendation from the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight in the last session, so the bill may be passed into law and public record requests result in true access to public records.

Senator O'Connor Ives can be reached at KATHLEEN.OCONNORIVES@MASENATE.GOV

Did Mass. Audubon Sell Its Soul to the Wind Industry?

Christine Morabito
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

This is Part 2 of a multi-part series on corruption in the wind power industry by environmentalist Christine Morabito. To read part one, go to valleypatriot.com and search "morabito" in the upper right hand corner search bar.

As an environmentalist and bird lover, it gives me no pleasure to criticize the largest conservation organization in New England; an organization of which I am a member. Personal conflict aside, it seems apparent that Massachusetts Audubon Society's support for a massive industrial project threatens thousands of birds a year.

Wind farms are prolific killers of birds and bats. It is estimated that by 2050, with the expected increase in wind development, the industry will be responsible for killing at least 5 million birds a year and untold millions of bats.

The decade-long relationship between Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) and the Cape Wind Project is laden with inconsistencies. In February of 2005, MAS had serious concerns about the proposed 130-turbine offshore wind project's environmental impact on Nantucket Sound, and responded in a lengthy testimony to federal regulators. Most significant was their estimation that the turbines, in the path of a major migration route, would kill between 2,300 and 6,600 birds a year.

Curiously, the above estimate was later denied by Audubon's Taber Allison, former Vice President of Conservation Science and Ecological Management, in a letter to the editor of South Coast Today, ("Letter writer gets bird facts wrong," August 3, 2006). Allison has since left MAS, to become Director of Research and Evaluation for American Wind Wildlife Institute, working in partnership with the wind industry.

It was Mass Audubon's original opinion that key data were missing from the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS), and required supplemental research before offering their support, stating, "The collision risk analysis is seriously deficient and should be redone." They stressed the need to assess impacts on endangered roseate terns, threatened piping plovers, migrating songbirds, federally endangered sea turtles, protected marine mammals and federally regulated fish populations.

However, by March 2006, MAS, overlooking enormous data gaps, had a monumental change of heart, as Jack Clarke, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, told the Boston Globe, "Our



PHOTO: GURELUR - THE NAVARRIAN ASSOCIATION OF REAL ECOLOGISTS

preliminary conclusion is that the project would not pose a threat to avian species." Admittedly, there would be bird deaths, but MAS would not comment on how many they considered acceptable.

In a final statement, August 2013, Audubon claimed to have conducted intensive studies, including a visit to Denmark's offshore wind farms (Nysted and Horns Rev) during the 2005 spring bird migration. However, in a previous statement, they conceded, "There are few offshore wind farms worldwide, and none of comparable size, from which to gauge the potential impacts of this project on birds and other wildlife." Audubon announced, "To date, no collision mortality has been reported at the Danish offshore wind farms, although measuring mortality in the offshore environment is difficult."

Difficult indeed - if not impossible. Offshore bird mortality cannot be studied the same way we study land-based wind sites - by searching the ground for carcasses. The sea is an extremely harsh environment. Birds and bats killed by turbines are likely to become fish food, sink or drift away with the currents.

National Wind Watch commented on Denmark's wind farms in their piece, "Wind power plan threat to wildlife." Plagued by problems since the beginning, Horns Rev's offshore wind turbine transformers "proved to be incapable of tolerating the harsh weather and salt water. In May, 2004, 80 defective wind turbines had to be shipped elsewhere for repairs." Marine biologists in coastal England became concerned in June 2005, when hundreds of seals were disturbed by wind turbines, affecting their breeding. "Many pups were born dead or abandoned by frightened mums."

Little is spoken of Cape Wind's oil spill

risk. A 10-story transformer substation is projected to hold 40,000 gallons of oil. According to the developer's own studies, in the case of a spill, there is a 90 percent chance that oil will reach the shoreline of the Cape and Islands in less than 5 hours. The turbines themselves each contain 190 gallons of oil. Land turbines have been known to leak oil and contaminate groundwater. That's not green, on land or at sea.

Another concern is industrial noise and its affect on marine creatures, many of which feed, breed and navigate by sound. The Army Corp of Engineers anticipates Cape Wind construction related noise decibel levels of 180 at 1,220 meters (a jet engine is 140 decibels). The Oceanic Preservation Society reports, "Whales, dolphins and other marine mammals that have been caught in the wake of sonar have died of cerebral hemorrhaging or intentionally beached themselves in a desperate attempt to avoid the ear-splitting resonance."

I find it absurd that the environmental impact studies examined by federal and state agencies were done using General Electric 3.6 MW wind turbines, which were discontinued by GE for failure to withstand the harsh marine environment. Questions were raised about advancing the permitting process using failing technology, but those concerns were ignored. A possible replacement turbine was not announced until just before the project was approved, which begs the question: Exactly what technology were the entities reviewing?

Mass Audubon stressed that Cape Wind be subject to careful and specific permit conditions. So, why did they embrace a project that got special exemptions from procedures that applied to every other offshore wind project? Why were permits waived and sweetheart deals made to ben-

efit a private developer?

It is beyond comprehension that a massive offshore industrial project of such magnitude; 130 wind turbines, 417 feet tall, in 15-foot waves, with spinning blades as wide as football fields, covering 24 square miles, in often foggy, noisy conditions, would be safe for any biologically sensitive location. Nor can I imagine a parallel universe where we would accept this level of environmental risk, were it posed by an oil company.

Mass Audubon's 180 degree turn coincided with a "Challenge" to the Cape Wind developer, that the corporation finance the monitoring of ongoing environmental impacts, along with a comprehensive mitigation package (industry code for carcass counting). There is little doubt that Mass Audubon, as one of the area's largest conservation groups, would be the recipient of the aforementioned contract, with an estimated value of \$8 million. Money can be seductive, especially to a non-profit organization.

After MAS presented their challenge, there was distinct shift from bird advocacy to wind advocacy. Much like their fellow environmental groups, Sierra Club (at least certain chapters) and Greenpeace, they traded environmental activism for political activism.

Case in point: Cape Wind poses a serious threat to marine mammals, yet Greenpeace is one of their biggest cheerleaders. "We can dance with corporations or we can dance on them," said Kate Smolski, a former spokeswoman for Greenpeace USA. This is why Patrick Moore, a Greenpeace founder, refers to their recent tactics as "blackmail in the boardroom." Moore jumped ship when the group attempted to ban chlorine - an important element in the periodic table.

Wildlife Biologist, Jim Wiegand believes we are seeing "the new face of Audubon" which operates more like a corporation. This shift began, he says, when National Audubon Society failed to adequately protect the endangered California condor from extinction by turbine. While some Audubon chapters still advocate for birds, their overall record is spotty.

Evidence suggests that wildlife collision data is biased in favor of the wind industry. Mortality disclosure at wind farms is voluntary, relying on powerful corporations to self-report. This is a worldwide problem, where consultants, hired by wind developers, have a vested interest in pleasing their employers, hence, hiding the bodies. One trick of the trade includes counting only

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PAYING ATTENTION!

with Tom Duggan



Harrington: Poster Boy for Why We Need a New Public Records Law

NEIL HARRINGTON IS THE POSTER BOY

When I started this journey to reform our state’s public records law five years ago I had no idea that the Town of Salisbury would feature so prominently in my motivations to add stiff penalties for officials who refuse to turn over public documents. Yet, here we are.

IT STARTED WITH LANTIGUA

My journey began in 2010 when newly elected Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua took office and made it perfectly clear that he had an “enemies list”. City Attorney Charles Boddy admitted to the Boston Herald that before he could release public documents, he first had to check with Lantigua to make sure the requester was not on said “enemies list”.

Clearly, The Valley Patriot was at the top of that list. First, he said (in writing), if I paid for the records I would get them. But, after paying Lantigua, I was told the records were “protected work product” even though the records we were seeking were public payments made to a local attorney doing business with the city.

After filing a lawsuit, and a few dozen court hearings later, (with Lantigua running up thousands in legal bills for the City of Lawrence), Lantigua released some records, but blacked out all the information.

Three superior court judges, including judges Cornetta and Murtagh, said in open court that there was nothing they could do compel Lantigua to comply with the law. “There’s simply no penalty in the law,” Judge Cornetta told us.

That’s when the journey really began.

A JOURNEY THROUGH SALISBURY, THIS COULD BE YOU

Our long escapade with Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua highlights why the public records law needs to penalize officials who brazenly violate it.

But, even with all that, there is no better poster boy for this legislation than Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington.

While The Valley Patriot was fighting battles with Lantigua in court, we were investigating other stories and submitting public records requests in other cities and towns, Salisbury being among them.

The issue in Salisbury surrounded two elderly ladies, Gracemarie and Joyce Tomaselli, who had lost their business because they didn’t pay a sewer betterment that they now claim was not their bill.

They filed appeals and lawsuits, and



yelled from the highest mountaintops for anyone to hear, that the town never recorded the sewer betterment with the Registry of Deeds (before they bought the property) and that the bill they were sent belonged to a prior owner.

Their bill compounded and the town refused to let them pay their taxes without first paying the fake sewer betterment bill. In the end, the amount of money they owed the town had climbed near the value of their property and they lost everything.

But they lost everything, in part, because Neil Harrington and other town officials concealed public documents that the Tomaselli sisters needed in court to prove that Salisbury officials acted improperly, and the sewer bill that started all this was never their bill to begin with.

GET IT YET? This could be you! These poor people had to request documents from town officials, to prove to the court that those town officials acted illegally, and the town officials refused because there’s no penalty in the public law for those who violate it. BINGO! The town didn’t release the records and the Tomasellis lost in every single court.

A NEW SHERIFF

So, The Valley Patriot started submitting public records requests to Neil Harrington, who ignored our requests. But, unlike Willie Lantigua, Harrington is well liked, an insider, someone that other officials and the local media regard as a political asset.

This makes lawbreakers like Neil Harrington far more dangerous to the public good than someone like Willie Lantigua.

You see, it was much easier to marshal political forces (and the media) to pay

HARRINGTON: PAGE 35



American Training holds their Annual Good Times Gala this year with the Wizard of Oz.

NEWBURYPORTGUIDE.COM

Newburyport Summertime Happenings!

Rebecca Pearson
VALLEY PATRIOT NEWBURYPORT COLUMNIST

Getting ready for a fun filled summer of happenings here in the Greater Newburyport Area? We have some great MUST DO events for the whole family!

Newburyport Events Include:

36th Annual Garden Tour - June 13- June 14

The Museum of Old Newbury Presents the 36th Annual Garden Tour, “Visions of Paradise”

10am - 4pm rain or shine. Advance ticket pricing before June 1st - \$20 and June 1st - day of - \$25. For more information and ticket prices, please contact the Museum of Old Newbury at 978-462-2681.

First Annual Discover Maudslay Day - June 20, 1-4pm

Join us for the First Annual Discover Maudslay Day. Stop by the Maudslay State Park Association booth in the main parking lot and treat yourself to welcome refreshments and snacks and pick up information and handouts. We will introduce you to the Association and answer any questions you might have. We are a Maudslay State Park Friends Group that works to support the upkeep and maintenance of the Park. Tour the formal gardens, stately walks, river outlooks, former mansion sites and still existent structures that make up the foot traffic only sections of the park.

We will also introduce you to the wilder sections of the park, open to foot traffic, bikers and horseback riders that take in the wonderful stands of laurels, rhododendrons and ancient stands of white pines. Meadows and fields, crossed by meandering paths, present views of the Merrimack River and climb to the heights of Castle Hill, where

Moulton Castle stood in days gone by. The Discover Day Event is free, but parking is subject to the revised state parking fee schedule: MA Residents \$5, non-residents \$6. Event is located at Maudslay State Park Curzon Mill Rd., Newburyport, MA, 01950.

Striper Tournament Supporting Yankee Homecoming - June 27, 9am-3pm

The kick off of Yankee Homecoming will begin with the 10th Annual Yankee Homecoming Striper Tournament at Ring’s Island Marina, Salisbury, MA. This event is sponsored by The Newburyport Five Cent Savings Bank. All proceeds to benefit the Newburyport Yankee Homecoming Fireworks Display. CASH PRIZES will be awarded for the longest Striper caught from land, dock, or a boat at sea. Raffles for other great prizes! OPEN TO EVERYONE! Join us rain or shine! \$40 per fisherman (\$25 per junior 15 and under) – all entrants received insulated tote bag, paid entries received before June 7th receive a free t-shirt! For more information on Yankee Homecoming, including Event Schedule, please visit <http://www.yankeehomecoming.com>

Amesbury Events Include:

MUSIC MIKE NIGHT AT PHAT CATS BISTRO - June 1, 7pm – 9pm

Phat Cats Bistro is planning a night of live music, drinks and a limited menu. On Monday, June 1, the restaurant will be open from 6-10pm. Mike and guest will be playing classical guitar from 7-9pm. Phat Cats Bistro, 65A Market Street.

FULLER BLOCK MUSIC SERIES – Thursday Nights at 5:30pm

Thursday nights through August, downtown Amesbury will be flooded with live music from various performers

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BOSHAR: FROM PAGE 5

friend, my buddy Dave Sturgeon, also known as Hawaii, and his wife, Kristin Sturgeon,” Chris continued.

“Dave’s an engineer and Kristin is a graphic designer. What they’ve done with this race, for a low-key, local race, is provide organization. I don’t think people realize how much goes on behind the scenes organizing a race like this, even something this small. We have upwards of 80 volunteers running it, and each of those 80 volunteers works under eight to ten managers in eight to ten groups. The event is literally broken out into playbooks, step by step.”

Chris says the fundraising is a double-edged sword. “You’re heartfelt and humbled at the same time, and it’s painful. I don’t like seeing my family out there accepting other people’s donations. But, what my dream is, that hopefully I can create a sustainable event that in the future, can be changed into a non-profit that can help others who do not have the resources and family connections I have.”

“We could really establish something good here. Like, help those who need a ramp to get into the house, or if they need a lift put in, or they need money to go to therapy. Since my injury, I’ve become friends with other kids that come from similar families, families that may be well

rooted in the community. They get a lot of support, and that seems to be the general route that you take. You pay it forward.”

PAYING IT FORWARD

Chris Boshar is on the board of a local Veterans organization in Lawrence called Mass New England Veterans Liberty House.

“I sit on a board there and I also sit on a heart defects/cardiac board. I joined both boards after my accident. We have family friends who lost their son to cardiomyopathy. So, I’ve been sitting on that board and helping them. I’m also doing a bunch of initiatives to raise awareness and money for childhood heart defects. It’s an offshoot to support the families who are living on the cardiac floor in Children’s Hospital. Some of these parents, much like what we did, have to pack their bags and jump on a flight on a moments notice. These people are calling from all over, not just the country, but the world. Some of them are lucky to have a toothbrush. So we’re raising money to help. We want to say, “Here’s some money. Go take your wife out to dinner. Here’s a hotel stay.” Stuff like that.

The Chris Boshar race is called “Restore the Bosh” and will take place June 13th at 10am at South Row School, 250 Boston Road, in Chelmsford. For more



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THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Thoughts on Addiction

Dr. Frank MacMillan, MD
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Human beings are hardwired towards addiction. Modern society has evolved a mind-boggling number of traps that ensnare members of the human family in all sorts of compulsions or addictions. Compulsion drives a large part of our economy. Think about it.

Advertisers and marketers want to know what buttons to push to make us buy their products, and then buy them again and again. The human brain's reward center can be triggered in any number of ways, but always producing the same result, the desire for more of what makes us feel good.

Let's face it. We are pleasure-seeking creatures. Some of us are more sensitive to this drive than others, but we are all susceptible. Historically, cultures have defined as virtuous such social constructs as prudence, thrift, sobriety, fidelity and others. Over time, the pendulum of what society considers to be virtuous swings back and forth from permissiveness to social and legal prohibition.

I was going to originally write this column on the problem of opiate addiction, and this includes prescription drugs but also illegal drugs like heroin. These compounds are useful as medicines as they suppress pain. If abused as intoxicants, they are highly addictive and actually remodel the brain to need progressively more to relieve pain or get high. Cannabis may similarly turn out to have significant value as a medicine, but we are seeing more serious problems with extracts, concentrates and synthetics. We are also seeing new syndromes in habitual, experienced users including cannabis hyper-emesis syndrome, an intractable vomiting condition that occurs as a result of the cannabinoid receptors in the intestines becoming over stimulated.

We are susceptible to addiction to not only substances, but also to behaviors as well. Compulsive behaviors are all around us. People laughed when they heard former Boston Red Sox player Wade Boggs saying he was addicted to sex, but is it really so




difficult to imagine a professional athlete with disposable income and availability would have an endless supply of opportunity, and get caught up in destructive behaviors? How many of us know problem gamblers who repeatedly double down, knowing the next score will come their way? Just today, I ran across an article relating compulsive eating to the same brain changes that occur with major depression. Think about it, not only substances, but behaviors can induce chemical changes in our brain that may be lasting.

I don't think the answer to our addictive nature is necessarily prohibition. We tried that in the 1930s with alcohol and know it doesn't work. Access control is one tool, but also education, social and cultural levers, and public health are tools that are really underutilized. Getting tobacco out of restaurants and public buildings made smoking much less cool and easier for the public to resist, a great example of negative peer pressure. There is a legitimate public health reason that celebrities who glorify drug use should be called out. I was at an Eric Clapton concert as a teenager, and the song that got everyone on their feet singing was "Cocaine." There is something so wrong about that.

We have a serious problem with addiction in this country. Addiction not only threatens individuals, but also affects families, and entire communities. We need to shine a light, get the word out, inoculate our children with the facts, and show good examples in our own behavior. Our political, social, cultural and religious leaders also need to show courage, step up and be heard. Prevention is always much easier than cure, but we also need to be ready and able to help those who cannot help themselves.

Dr. MacMillan specializes in Gastroenterology and Liver disease and is a member of the North Andover Board of Health. Dr. Macmillan was recently elected by his peers to be vice Speaker of the House of Delegates at the Massachusetts Medical Society and alternate Delegate from Massachusetts to the American Medical Association. Dr. MacMillan is on staff at Holy Family Hospital Haverhill and Methuen, Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport, Lawrence General Hospital, and Parkland Hospital in Derry, NH and is the President of the Massachusetts Gastroenterology Association. Dr. MacMillan also serves as Massachusetts Governor of the American College of Gastroenterology and is a Fellow of the College.






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Access to Public Records is a Matter of Life or Death

Bharani Padmanabhan
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

This month, Valley Patriot Editor Tom Duggan was front and center in this state’s media environment for a couple of days. Most media people referred to him by name except for Dan Kennedy who refused to do so while using Tom’s testimony to support the new public records bill.

Tom had authored a bill that was passed out of committee last year, but died with the end of the last legislative session.

This year it is back in committee, which held a public hearing. This hearing at the State House, in a small room with no Wi-Fi or live streaming, attracted an overflow crowd from numerous sectors including the press, Common Cause, the Massachusetts ACLU and the public.

Tom was the first non-legislator to testify and presented clear powerful testimony that named names. It made clear the absolute importance of public access to public records held by the government we fund through our hard work.

All of this is not academic or abstract in any way. Allow me to illustrate with a couple of simple examples.

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine is funded by the Legislature and answerable to it directly. The Board exists specifically to protect the public from substandard doctors and to ensure doctors meet spec. We pay its bills to do just this.

Being a Massachusetts Board however, it couldn’t be bothered about letting the public know if it really does so.

One of the orders from the Legislature, a mandate, a mandatory requirement that the Board absolutely cannot avoid or ignore, requires the Board to receive reports and complaints about doctors from other doctors. These are called 5F Reports from the Law that requires them - MGL Chapter 112, Section 5F.

The Legislature further ordered the Board to establish timelines that dictate how long the Board takes to investigate and resolve 5F Reports and further requires the Board to prioritize investigations based on the severity of the threat to the public.

It thus follows that the Board should, as ordered by the Legislature, immediately investigate a 5F Report documenting a doctor giving the wrong medicine to a patient that puts the patient at a high risk of death.

I put in a public records request to the Board asking 4 simple questions -

(1) How many 5F Reports were filed in 2014, 2013, and 2012 by physicians against other physicians?

(2) How many 5F Reports were properly investigated by the Board and acted upon?

(3) What is the percentage of 5F Reports that resulted in disciplinary action against the physicians named?

(4) How many 5F Reports have been filed against physicians so far in the year 2015?

The Board wrote back that it received 24 5F Reports in 2012, 30 in 2013 and 25 in 2014 and 8 so far this year.

The Board however declared that it had NO RECORDS responsive to questions 2 and 3.

Did you get that? The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine claims it has zero records documenting how many 5F Reports it actually investigated in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The Massachusetts Board further stated that it couldn’t say how many 5F Reports resulted in disciplinary action against doctors.

I personally sent in two 5F Reports against 2 different doctors, one in 2013 for giving the wrong drug to an MS patient that placed him at great risk of bleeding to death and the other in 2015 for lying on his license renewal application.

The Board refused to tell me if they were even going to investigate the 2 doctors even though I am the person reporting a serious threat to the public. In both cases the Board has not taken any action and their profile on the Board website remains trouble-free.

It is a major threat to public safety to have a Board of Registration in Medicine that refuses to investigate major threats to public safety and flatly refuses to obey the clear mandate of the Legislature.

It is totally unbelievable that the Board has no records documenting how many 5F Reports the Board investigates every year. Of course it has the records, but the Board cannot afford to let sunlight shine on how it lets some favored doctors walk even when they are severe threats to public safety.

There is a strong indication that the Board cuts corrupt deals with doctors who have broken the law and gets such doctors to testify in favor of the Board in exchange for letting them walk, exactly as certain confidential informants are immune from the law.

Only transparency can restore the will of the Legislature and begin to protect the people of this Commonwealth. Withholding all funding to the Board should improve accountability in a speedy fashion.

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD is a neurologist who specialises in multiple sclerosis in the Boston area. scleroplex@gmail.com

NEWBURYPORT:FROM PAGE 23

who will set up in front of Nest, on the corner of Friend and Main Streets. The Fuller Block Music Series is sponsored by the Amesbury Chamber of Commerce and Nest, with support from the Amesbury Cultural Council and other local businesses on specific nights. For this month the following will be performed, June 4th- Frank Czar, June 11th- Thr33 Band, June 18th – Howie Newman

REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES CEMETERY TOUR WITH BARTLETT MUSEUM - June 20, 1-3pm

Join the Bartlett Museum on its first cemetery tour by Lynn Davis. Gather at the Bartlett Museum, 270 Main Street, Amesbury to then tour the Union Cemetery off Macy Street and visit the seven Revolutionary War Graves. The tour includes graves of veterans: Captain John Currier, John Dustin, David Lowell, Ezekiel Goodridge, John Barnard, John

Blaisdell and Merchant Cleaves. Suggested donation cost of \$10 is charged at the door, \$8 in advance. To reserve tickets, call 978-388-3089. The Bartlett Museum is open Memorial Weekend through Labor Day on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays from 1-4pm. Reservations can also be made for special tours by leaving a message at the museum at 978-388-4528. Visit them online at www.amesburytreasures.org or www.BartlettMuseum.org and “like” us on Facebook: The Bartlett Museum.

RING RECKERS CAR SHOW FOR AMESBURY DAYS – All Day Event in Downtown Amesbury on June 28

With the support of the City of Amesbury and Mayor Ken Gray, a car enthusiast and owner of an award-winning vehicle, the Ring Reckers Car Show is once again coming to downtown to be a part of Amesbury Days. In 2014, there were more than 600 cars and we hear even more are planned for this year.

AUDOBON:FROM PAGE 21

carcasses found in designated areas, while ignoring the rest.

I applaud efforts by conservation organizations to impose stricter regulations on the wind industry. Since 2010, the American Bird Conservancy has been advocating for mandatory permitting guidelines – like those required by oil and gas companies - to reduce the deadly impact of their technology.

I spoke with Michael Hutchins, Ph.D., Director of Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign at the American Bird Conservancy, who said, “Some environmental groups have fully embraced wind, without asking the important questions. They see birds and bats as collateral damage,” in the quest for renewable energy. The Conservancy is pro-wind, but advocates for careful placement (siting) of the structures, avoiding sensitive wildlife areas (such as Nantucket Sound). “Once the turbines are up, they’re not coming down.” as in California’s Altamont Pass, where thousands of birds and bats are mutilated yearly.

Many environmental groups have

romanticized wind energy and embraced the “green is green” myth. Some green enthusiasts are so ideologically and/or financially invested, that they refuse to admit they are wrong. Not admitting you are wrong in a relationship can doom it to failure. Not admitting you are wrong about wind power can be deadly.

My comments are not meant as an indictment of the many, dedicated Mass Audubon employees and volunteers I have met and worked alongside. As in many industries, management is often tragically out of step with the rank and file. It is my sincere belief that the top brass at Mass Audubon have betrayed not only the wildlife they are entrusted to protect, but also the membership they represent.

More to come in part 3 next month.



Christine Morabito is a resident of Haverhill and former President of the Greater Boston Tea Party. You can email her at christine.morabito@hotmail.com



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Measuring Success God’s Way!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

As my relationship with Jesus and God’s Grace are beginning to bloom, my thinking and how I define things in this life are also taking on new meaning. For instance, I have been thinking about what defines a successful life. I know for myself, I was of the impression that success comes your way only from lots and lots of hard work. I learned from my parents very early in life that success was based on having the family taken care of by having a roof over their heads, food on the table, clothes on their backs and all the bills paid. Both my parents worked hard all of their lives, at times holding two jobs so that us children would have a better life than they did. Their definition of what constitutes a successful life eventually became mine, and the blueprint of what I tried to instill in the lives of my children. I am so thankful to God for my Mom and Dad and for all that they instilled in me and taught me.

I am also grateful to my Heavenly Father who continues to enlighten me with the knowledge and beauty of His dear Son and His wonderful grace. He continues to teach me His ways, His perspective through His Word, and now I get the awesome privilege of humbly sharing it with all of you.

We see God’s view on what is success when we read the story of Joseph in the Bible, beginning in Genesis Chapter 39, verse 1, NKJV. “Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.

(2) The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. (3) And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.”

In the story of Joseph, we see him being sold as a slave by his brothers. Slaves who would become household servants were bought and sold in Egypt standing naked at the market place so that buyers could be assured that they were not purchasing someone with a skin disease which could contaminate their homes. Joseph was bought by Potiphar; a captain

of Pharaoh’s guard and over time he saw that the Lord was with Joseph and that all that was put in Joseph’s hand, the Lord made to prosper. Potiphar knowing this, made Joseph overseer of his house. Then Joseph, due to unfortunate circumstances, ends up in prison. Then over time and having the Lord with him, is brought before Pharaoh himself. Within one hour of Joseph being before Pharaoh, he becomes Pharaoh’s second in command over all Egypt. So we see over time, Joseph goes from being naked and humiliated at the market place, to living and ruling in the palace!

The key to understanding Joseph’s success is found in “when” in Joseph’s life did God say that he was successful? God called Joseph a success long before he was called before Pharaoh. Actually, it was when he was at his lowest point of his life, by anyone’s standard. Yet in spite of all this turmoil, Joseph was called a success by God because “The Lord” was with him!

That’s right! Joseph was a success because “The Lord” was with him! Today our being a success by God’s standard has nothing to do with what circumstances we find ourselves in. Our success has nothing to do with what material possessions we have. Our success is due to who we are!

Our success begins when Jesus our Lord is with us, which happens when we invite him into our hearts. Read Romans 10:9 to see how this is accomplished.

The difference between success having “The Lord Jesus with you” and success with not having “The Lord Jesus with you” is very clear.

Living successfully God’s way is having the Lord with us which takes the heavy burden along with the stress of acquiring and maintaining a successful lifestyle off of our shoulders. Our success is all about Jesus, not about me or you. Imagine as parents, teaching our children starting at an early age that it is not day after day stressfully working hard that makes one successful.

Having Jesus Christ our Lord “alone” is what makes us a success!

God calls you and me successful because Jesus is with us!

Jesus Christ is our success!
Love to all! Peter Larocque

FRAUD: FROM PAGE 9

publication “Latino Pride”, Siglo 21, and had worked on a publication for the Lawrence Public Schools.

In 2006, Dominguez was on the forefront of an effort to stop Northern Essex Community College from building a multi-million dollar Health and Technology Center on Common Street at the site of the old downtown mall. That effort failed.

Dominguez recently ran for office in the Dominican Republic’s national elections, seeking a spot as Deputy to serve on the Dominican Congress. The position was created so that Dominicans living in the US could represent other Dominicans who have problems with either transferring property, or may have problems dealing with sending a vehicle from the United States to the Dominican Republic. She lost that election.

LANTIGUA’S MANY EXPORT SCANDALS

Mayor Lantigua’s former Chief of Staff Lenny Degnan was convicted last year of fraud for his role in sending a garbage truck to the Dominican Republic while Lantigua was mayor. Lantigua has been under investigation by the Essex County District Attorney, the Attorney General and United States Attorney’s Offices since shortly after taking office in 2010.

Throughout that time, ambulances and other vehicles were sent from vendors doing business with the City of Lawrence to Lantigua’s hometown of Tenares as “gifts”.

Throughout the time those vehicles and other items were being sent to the Dominican Republic, Milagros Dominguez was actively involved with the Lantigua administration. Her (now) husband Santiago Mattias was hired to work in city hall by Lantigua. At the time Lantigua hired Mattias to be an inspector of weights and measures without having the proper certification. He was ordered by the city to take a class and obtain the state mandated certification to remain in the job, but Mattias never took the test and was fired by Mayor Rivera in 2014.

He and Milagros ran several programs on Spanish Language radio promoting Lantigua’s political efforts and acting as his promotions team. They are still on the radio today.

Established in April 2006, the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Document and Benefit Fraud Task Forces



PHOTO JANET ALDRICH

Milagros Dominguez, (left) AKA, Dirma Espada, AKA, Milagros De Mattias caught by The Valley Patriot on her way into Federal Court last month for fraudulently using multiple social security numbers.

focus their efforts on detecting, deterring and disrupting both document and benefit fraud. Investigators from a variety of agencies with expertise in different aspects of fraud collaborate with U.S. Attorneys’ Offices around the country to formulate a comprehensive approach in targeting the criminal organizations and the beneficiaries behind these fraudulent schemes.

Through collaboration and partnership, the task forces maximize resources, eliminate duplication of efforts, and produce a strong law enforcement presence. They combine a variety of law enforcement tools and authorities to achieve focused, high-impact criminal prosecutions and financial seizures.

Document and benefit fraud poses a severe threat to national security and public safety because it creates a vulnerability that may enable terrorists, criminals and illegal aliens to gain entry to and remain in the United States. Document fraud, also known as identity fraud, is the manufacture, sale or use of counterfeit identity documents such as fake driver’s licenses, birth certificates, Social Security cards or passports for immigration fraud or other criminal activity. Benefit fraud refers to the misrepresentation or omission of facts on an application to obtain an immigration benefit one is not entitled to, such as U.S. citizenship, political asylum or a valid visa.



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BUMP: FROM PAGE 5

gender role expectations and be happy.

She advises women to let go of the pressure of “work-life balance” to be successful. She looked thoughtfully into the crowd and said, “One of the reasons that I’m standing in front of you today is that for 25 of 35 years [my husband and I’ve] been married, he has done the laundry!”

Bump admitted she wasn’t born a public speaker: “When I stood to speak in public my legs were shaking...it wasn’t a pretty sight...but when I looked at the other candidates ...I decided no one was going to do the job the way that I would.” She sadly remembered that 20 years ago she thought elected women would have caught up by now. She seemed exasperated because only 17% of Congress are women: “And it’s not because we don’t run, or we can’t win!” she added. She described how different from men women’s feelings are about guilt, taking bold risks, and the number of times it takes to successfully encourage a woman to run for office.

In a private interview after the event I remarked to the Auditor: “You know, it was powerful to hear you say that you haven’t figured out work-life balance!” and we both chuckled. Women often feel the pressure to be a great leader, a provider, a wife, a mother, a caretaker to parents, a homemaker, to be involved in the community, and that’s a lot of pressure. Auditor Bump referred to these expectations as an, “Artificial construct [and that] you need to find your own equilibrium...there’s no magic equation.” She advised women to set priorities, only give yourself to what you want, your own responsibilities, not necessarily what you think is

expected of you. “Make sure one of those priorities are to keep yourself happy and healthy,” she added.

Something that isn’t often discussed is that despite initial supports for becoming a female leader, there are a lot of barriers for women, and it’s not only pay inequality or getting elected in the first place. A whole new set of issues arise once you do make it, a struggle against an unspoken different set of rules. Her answer to this was simple: mentors. “You want to find out what the unwritten rules are...Generally men focus on using their strengths to overcome their weaknesses, while sometimes our nurturing nature can make us more focused on fairness or merit [which can end up holding women back].”

Usually you can catch folks checking the time towards the end of a political speech, but I didn’t spot any as Auditor Bump added, “You can continue to lament the fact that there aren’t more women on boards, in corporations, or that there aren’t more women in leadership positions, OR you can really do something about it...mentor women...assist women...encourage women to run for office!”

Jessica Finocchiaro is Vice Chair of the Gr. Lawrence Technical School representing Methuen, and serves on various community boards in the Merrimack Valley and statewide. She works as a Realtor® at Century 21 McLennan & Co. and holds Masters of Government and Public Administration, both from Suffolk University. Jessica can be reached at (978) 566-1786, or on-line at JessicaForMethuen.com, Facebook/ Twitter: @JessFinocchiaro.

BABIES AND BRIEFCASES

THE WARNING SIGNS OF FINANCIAL ABUSE

Cheryl Hajjar
VALLEY PATRIOT MOMMY COLUMNIST

Many of us at one point in our lives have either been in an abusive relationship or have known someone in an abusive relationship. When we think of abuse however, we think of it as either physical or mental. What about financial? Financial abuse is the silent form of abuse and perhaps the most debilitating and crippling of them all. Financial abuse is defined as a form of abuse that is used by abusers to gain power and control in a relationship. In general it limits the partner’s access to assets and information regarding the family’s finances. In 98% of abuse cases where physical, sexual, mental and intimidation abuse is present, financial abuse is present as well.



As with many forms of abuse, it may start slowly and progress over time. Often times it looks like a gesture of love, for example the abuser might say that they will take care of the finances to take some stress off of you as a form of manipulation and promise to give money to the victim every week to spend how they want. The victim is in love with the partner and trusts them completely and allows this to happen. This scenario can commonly lead to the batterer giving their partner less and less money every week and by the time she wants to take control of her finances, the accounts have either been changed or moved and she no longer has access to her money. This makes it nearly impossible for the victim to be able to leave the partner.

Here are some of the key signs to watch out for:

Monitors Every Penny You Spend - This includes checking the store receipt and change down to the penny. An abusive partner will always ask what exactly you bought and why you bought it.

Gets Angry When You Purchase Something For Yourself - Abusers will often get mad if you purchase something for yourself and get verbally or physically abusive.

Gives You An Allowance - If your partner only gives you so much to spend a week and doesn’t give you access to the checkbook, this is a way of controlling you.

Not Allowing You To Work - If any partner shames you into not working or

quitting your job, harasses you at work so you get fired, or refuses to let you work for no legitimate reason, beware.

Using Your Social Security Number - Never under any circumstances let your partner use your social security number. If you find that he or she has opened credit cards or accounts with it, stop the activity immediately and call the police. This is a huge red flag that you are being financially abused.

Using Your Child’s Social Security Number - Using your child’s social security number to use them as an income tax refund is not only illegal but abusive.

Using unauthorized Funds - Using your child’s savings account or your savings account for their own personal use without your permission.

Maxing Out Credit Cards Without Your Permission - Abusers will often use your credit cards without your permission. When questioned, they are very good at manipulating or intimidating you into thinking they should have access to your money. Another warning sign of financial abuse.


Refusing Funds - Refusing to give you food, clothing, rent money or medicine is another way any batterer can financially abuse you.

What can you do if you think you are a victim or know someone who is a victim of financial abuse? If you feel that you might be in danger, call a domestic abuse hotline right away. They have many systems in place to help you. Also tell a family member or a friend who you can trust to help you. Do not stay in an abusive relationship for money. You are not alone and there is help.

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KIRWIN: FROM 12

a pattern in the LPS and that bullying is still prevalent in the schools with no transparency.

“The schools are spending an awful lot of money, time, and resources on legal bills and psychiatrists for this kind of sanctioned behavior in the schools. They haven’t made any changes at all.”

“They are sending employees to psychiatrists because of bullying and PTSD. If they just took care of the problem this could all be avoided but they don’t want to admit that there is a problem with bullying of teachers and staff. So, as long as they refuse to deal with the problem this is going to continue. That is why I am coming forward now. It’s not just about me,” Kirwin continued. “This is about a safe work environment for the employees of the LPS, and a safe educational environment for the students.”

“Given the preaching and pandering we hear from school officials about student bullying in the schools, I find it bizarre that it’s the school administrators and a principal who were themselves the bullies in this case, and so many others. How is any school system supposed to protect the children from bullying when they willingly choose to ignore bullying of staff, and then refuse to do anything about it after the fact?”

TRANSPARENCY

“I want people to know about what is going on in the LPS and they seem to be more interested in covering it up. From an insider’s perspective, what really goes on in the school department is always concealed from the public. They didn’t want me going public and for a long time I didn’t, because I wanted to resolve the problem without making the schools look bad or give them bad publicity because there are a lot of good people there who are trying to make things right and care for the students. At this point, however, I think the best thing that can happen is to shine the light of day on what is happening and hopefully, the publicity will make

them respond by rooting out the problem not trying to put a Band-Aid hoping it all goes away.”

“They need to stop blaming the victims, we tell that to the children when we are teaching about bullying in the schools, yet the schools themselves are employing exactly that tactic.”

A NEW DAY?

With the new Receiver/Superintendent on board I really thought that things were going to improve and that he would understand my situation given that he has a background in school adjustment counseling which would include confidentiality issues. Mary Lou Bergeron as well.”

“They wanted me to come back to work after all this,” Kirwin says. “At one point I did go back to work and was bullied again. I tried. But, after all this, how do I go back and work in a school system that doesn’t accept responsibility for the way teachers and staff are routinely bullied. I realize now, that it would have been emotional suicide to go back to an unsafe system. I had to choose between my job and my life. Even though I always loved my job and always wanted to continue in my job, there was just no way I could go back to that environment. This has been documented by numerous psychological professionals since this happened.”

Kirwin says that the schools have still not paid her owed sick time and longevity. “They made a settlement agreement that I was never a part of and made a decision without my say so as one of the parties. That’s why I went to arbitration. They have still not fulfilled their obligation even though they certainly think so.”

“What I want most now, and the reason I want my story to be public is because I want employees of the school system to know that they need to come forward and not be afraid. There needs to be transparency on this kind of behavior and these employees should not have to live in fear of losing their jobs and their livelihoods.”



Summer TV Is Not Just For Reruns Anymore

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

There was a time when summertime meant reruns on TV for 3 months. That is no longer the case. Now summer is a whole new TV season. New programming from all directions will appear over the next few weeks and take you through the summer months. Let’s take a look at some of the new shows that I’m recommending your check out this summer.

Ballers – Sunday June 21st at 10 pm on HBO. Ballers is a look at the business and pleasure of the sports world, told through the eyes of a former NFL star turned top agent played by Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson. Kind of reminds me of a sports version of ‘Entourage.’

The Brink – Sunday June 21st at 10:30 pm on HBO. Another show HBO is premiering this summer is a dark comedy called The Brink. In this show the Secretary of State (Tim Robbins) must work with a junior foreign office lackey (Jack Black) and a Navy fighter pilot (Pablo Schreiber) to avert global nuclear war following a coup in Pakistan. Yes this is a comedy.

Humans – Sunday June 28th at 9 pm on AMC. William Hurt stars in this sci-fi series. This series takes place in the near future, and centers on an ordinary family that buys a lifelike android servant. But their new purchase may be more than it appears.

Sense8 – Friday June 5thth on Netflix. Netflix newest series is also a venture into the world of sci-fi. Eight strangers around the world — a Chicago cop, an Icelandic DJ, a Kenyan bus driver, a Korean businesswoman, a Spanish actor, an Indian scientist, a Berlin thief and a San Francisco hacker — discover they share a strange connection, and become hunted by a mysterious group. This is a highly anticipated show for sci-fi fans, mainly because it comes from the Wachowski brothers, the writers and directors of The Matrix films.

Scream – Tuesday June 30th at 10 pm on MTV. Based on Wes Craven’s horror film franchise. Scream follows an entirely new set of attractive teenagers, played by Willa Fitzgerald, Bex Taylor-James and John Karna among others, as an incidence of viral video-related cyberbully-

ing leads to murder in the small town of Lakewood, which in turn starts to bring the town’s buried secrets to light.

Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll – Thursday July 16th at 10 pm on FX. This comedy series marks Denis Leary’s return to FX where he starred for 7 seasons in the Emmy-winning drama Rescue Me. This time Leary stars as Johnny Rock, the lead singer of a legendary early ‘90s band known as The Heathens, who broke up the same day their one and only album was released. Now, Johnny is a washed-up has-been who’s out of money and looking to get the band back together.

There are also quite a few returning shows that will be coming back this summer. Here are a few that you should check out.

True Detective - Sunday June 21st at 9 pm on HBO. This is season 2 of the show that featured Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson in the critically acclaimed first season. This season will feature a whole new cast. This season the story will center on a highway patrolman (Taylor Kitsch) who discovers a horrific murder scene, kicking off a chain of events that will bring in two LAPD detectives (Colin Farrell and Rachel McAdams), a dirty businessman (Vince Vaughn) and billions of dollars.

Orange Is The New Black – Friday June 12th on Netflix. Netflix brilliant women’s prison dramedy takes season 3 in a different direction this year. This season will center on the possible sale or shuttering of Litchfield Women’s Correctional. Not to worry though, the show has already been renewed for a 4th season, so it doesn’t look the show is going anywhere.

Ray Donovan – Sunday July 12th at 9 on Showtime. Katie Holmes joins the cast for season 3. She’ll play a wealthy and shrewd businesswoman who uses ‘fixer’ services” that are being provided by Liev Schreiber’s title character.

So as you can see, there is no shortage of things to watch this summer. Enjoy and don’t forget your sunscreen!

Do you have any questions about TV? Email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future column.

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Spend a Day Boating With Your Dog

Tracey Zysk
VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

Summer is here, and if you are like most New Englanders, at some point over the next couple of months you will be on a boat. Newburyport, Portsmouth or Winnepesaukee, actually it doesn't really matter where you go; but if you do, take your dog!

There are a few safety tips to take into consideration for you and your pup before you leave the dock.

10 tips For A Successful Day On Your Boat:

1. Life Jacket - Yes, first and foremost get your dog a "doggy life jacket". Even if your dog is a hotshot swimmer, he should still wear a jacket. Mother Nature is not one to fool with. If the currents are strong, or another boat comes by and makes waves, your dog will benefit from the added protection a life jacket will offer.
2. First Aid Kit - When stocking your first aid kit for your boat you should consider a few extra items for your dog. Antibiotic ointments, bandage wraps and an ice pack. Many pet stores sell pet first aid kits for under \$15.
3. Visit the Boat First- Before you take your dog out on the boat for the first time, take him for a visit. Let him on the boat to smell, sniff, and get used to the surroundings and boat design. This would be the perfect time to put that new life jacket on him and try out the water too.
4. Check Local Laws - MA, NH, and RI. My understanding is New England states are very liberal with letting you have pets on your boats. But as always, check first. Also, review the by laws of any boating club you may be at to ensure you are compliant to their policies.
5. Rescue Plan - Have the discussion of who will do what before you take your dog out on the boat. Your dog may become very excited on the boat and want to

play and jump. He could even slide or fall overboard. Planning ahead on who will cut the engine, where the rope is, and who will jump in all could save your dog's life in case of an accident or emergency.

6. First Time Out Do A Trial Run - The first time taking your dog on the boat, plan on making the trip a short one. You want to let your dog adjust to the movement of the boat. Some dogs do experience motion sickness, and some dogs just do not like being on boats. Do the test run first to see if this is the right activity for your pup.

7. Hydrate - Water, water, water, make sure your dog has enough water to drink while out on the boat. Also designate an area of shade for your dog too.

8. Sun Protection - Yes, your dog can get a sunburn. Especially while spending the day out on the water. There are sun-screen sprays that are totally safe for your dog. A price well spent.

9. Treats - You may need treats if your dog becomes anxious or if he just gets the munchies. If you are taking a longer trip, remember to pack his meal and any medications too.

10. Have fun - Planning ahead and taking all precautions will lead to an enjoyable trip for all of you. Summer is here, what a great way to spend the day with your furry best friend!



Tracey Zysk, owner of Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care in North Andover MA is a local pet care professional. She has been featured on local radio, TV and newspapers educating the general public on animal care and animal health & wellness. Tracey is a proud supporter of Police, Fire & Military K9 units and National Award winner of the Platinum PAW award. Tracey may be reached at wigglewalk@comcast.net. Become a fan on Facebook at Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care



The Annual Sheep Shearing Festival in North Andover drew a large crowd this year.

GILMORE: FROM PAGE 17

country. One blink of an eye...

Time has clouded my sense of how quickly after September 11th we came to a privacy and security debate. CSPAN has aired several forums on the topic of privacy and security where you've participated [CPAC 2014 - "Privacy and NSA Wiretaps"; the Steamboat Institute's Freedom Conference - "The Death of Privacy: Does It Matter if the Government Records Every Phone Call, E-Mail and Text Message That You Send?"]. The fourth Gilmore Commission report has that great Benjamin Franklin quote and your conclusion, "We firmly believe that it will not be necessary to 'give up essential liberty' to achieve a marked increase in our security." What facts should people know, about the NSA and its programs, before opining on where to strike the value balance?

I think it's the duty of our elected officials to understand exactly what's going on and then to apply appropriate standards. And to the extent that they weren't, then that has to be corrected. I believe that we have to have proper oversight.

We have to have proper rules and proper accountability. But we can't give up in the ability to protect ourselves from the enemy. The enemy is trying to make us choose between privacy and liberty and national security.

Now, I have an acute sense as time has gone on, as we have watched the development of ISIS and the deterioration of other parts of the Middle East, and other places as well, that the danger to the United States is very serious. And I think we cannot give up our technological advantages. But that doesn't mean that you set a standard that says the NSA can just know what everyone is doing. There have to be zones of privacy and a confidence that we have zones of privacy in this country. And I just think we have to be working every day to make those things harmonize. Do not be forced into a choice, one or the other. And just likewise, I think that anybody that says well we just can't have the NSA doing anything—I think that's wrong. And by the way, as you know, I'm on the record as saying that I think Edward Snowden was, and is, a traitor.

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News from the American Legion

John Lenotte
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

The current baseball season is in full swing. Nice to have winter behind us! I will note that a number of veterans played professional baseball. This includes: Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra and Stan Musial. Over 50 members of the Baseball Hall of Fame played American Legion baseball. The list of great players includes: Johnny Bench, Roger Clemons, Carlton Fisk, Al Kaline, Greg Maddux, Roger Maris, Al Pujols, Don Mattingly, Frank Robinson, Mo Vaughn and Justin Verlander.

Haverhill is proud of its own Carlos Pena!

On July 25 through July 29, the American Legion State Tournament will be played at Haverhill Stadium. I hope many of you will join us to watch this next generation of major league players. We know that scouts will be out to watch them play. Regional playoffs will be in Bristol, CT. Then in August, the American Legion World Series will be played in Shelby, NC. This will be broadcast on ESPN. We will share more details in the July edition.

This is a great program that the American Legion has sponsored since 1925. Children and Youth programs are one of the Four Pillars of the American Legion. The others are Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security and Americanism. There are many who think the American Legion is all about the “bar”.

This is not true at all. The American Legion charters posts, not bars. There are many successful posts who do not have a member’s lounge. If a Post does have a lounge or function hall, the purpose is to raise money to support the programs of the Legion.



John Lenotte is the recipient of the 2012 Valley Patriot Hero of the Year Award and is Commander of the Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4, Haverhill, MA; Past Department Commander, of Massachusetts The American Legion; contact: JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net

Unfortunately, we continue to see many issues with the Veterans Administration (VA) on a national level. Despite all the wrongdoings by administrators, few have been punished. Even senior members of Congress, including Speaker Boehner are frustrated and have brought this to the attention of national media. If you are also frustrated with any aspects of what is happening in Washington, stop complaining to your friends and family. Complain to our Congressional Delegation! Only when they hear from us will they take action. As I continue to write in almost every article, make your voice heard. Join my voice in letting Congress know what we like and what we do not like. Yes, your voice will make a difference.

May God bless our troops and their families.

John Lenotte, Commander American Legion Post 4, Haverhill; Past Department of Massachusetts Commander.

HERO: FROM 1



B-17 Bombers Release their Payload During WWII

up and delay the takeoffs, which in turn would delay the join-ups, which in turn would delay the climb outs, which in turn would delay and affect the formation of the combat boxes and ultimately the main columns. All for want of a few feet either side of the runway or one seemingly small misjudgment!

Sometimes those accumulated delays would result in timing problems and because of these, German fighters might be given time between “waves” of bombers for their fighters to land, refuel, rearm, and then....

...you could have something such as the first major attack against Schweinfurt, Germany in which the Eighth lost 60 bombers and 600 aircrew on one mission!

Imagine the feeling within those surviving crews when they were told that they would have to go back and try to finish the job. It is easy to imagine that when those surviving aircrews heard that news there was no universal groan, but rather a slow quiet exhaling combined with a silent sense of inevitability.

Before each individual squadron takeoff it required the efforts of thousands of people involved in intelligence, target selections, weather info including not just surface conditions, but winds aloft at varying altitudes as well as icing conditions, target routes, ordnance required with fusing requirements, squadron aircraft availability, aircrew availability, alternate target choices, decoys and decoy routes, fighter escort range, expected fighter attacks, known flak (anti-aircraft) installations etc.

And it all had to work seamlessly or.... some would pay the ultimate price.

As the old saying goes the ground crews especially knew the absolute necessity of getting it all right because of the all-too-truism: for want of a nail...

It was those ground personnel remaining behind who knew the quiet reality of what was termed “sweating them in” as they waited for the familiar sound of the returning bombers. (To this day if I hear the rare so-distinctive sound of a B-17 it will bring me upright out of a deep sleep. No one of that era will ever forget the unique sound of those four engines.) Everyone among the ground crews back at Deopham Green worried silently about whether or not their crew and their plane

would be among the survivors ... and if the landing gear was okay ... and if the flaps were not shot away ...if the brakes were working ...if the rudder was still there but, worst of all, if the dreaded colored flare arced upward from a stricken aircraft and then slid over and fell slowly toward the ground indicating that there were wounded, or worse, on board.

Every man knew how many aircraft had been sent, whether there had been any “aborts”, and each man silently counted the returning bombers as they did their classic “peel off” to land. Each man hoping that if “his” plane and “his” crew were missing that “ops” would get a call telling them the welcome news that those boys had been forced to land at some other airfield in East Anglia. As each plane taxied slowly to its hardstand with usually only the outboard engines running, the sound slowly died away as props stopped turning, and the entire bomber seemed somehow to sag as if in tired relief. The crews slowly emerged, faces drawn, tired, emotionally exhausted, quietly glad that once more they had survived, and waited for the ride back to the debriefing room. Sometimes they might discuss something that had happened on the mission, but usually they just wanted to get out of their flight gear, get something to eat, and sleep, if sleep could come at all.

They tried not to notice the ambulances, or the fire trucks.

If they were very very lucky, they might get a pass to go to the railroad station at Attleborough and go to London. In London the most popular destination for the guys was the Red Cross-operated Mostyn Club near the Marble Arch because that was one place that actually had heated baths... and a guy could just lie there and soak in sheer warm relative luxury. They never knew when they might get another opportunity.

By the way, that railroad station at Attleborough is still there and on the wall is a plaque dedicated by the grateful British to the 452nd Bomb Group.

All of the squadrons had their stories and the 452nd alone had a wealth of them, some of them pleasant, some of them not, but all of them in their own way memorable.

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B-17 Flies out of North Andover



Empty Chair Dedicated at Lawrence Stadium

Veterans Helping Veterans dedicated an "Empty Chair" at Lawrence's Veterans Memorial Stadium last month to commemorate Prisoners of War and Missing in Action servicemen. State Representatives Marcos Devers, Diana DiZoglio, Frank Moran, Linda Dean Campbell and Senator Barbara L'Italien joined Mayor Dan Rivera and Councilor Marc LaPlante.

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NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 11

oral comments.

Anyone unable to attend the hearing but interested in providing comments may do so by emailing joseph.stanton@appct.state.ma.us, or by U.S. mail to Joseph Stanton, Clerk, Appeals Court, Room 1200, One Pemberton Square, Boston, MA, 02108-1705.

LOWELL CANDIDATE FORUM

The Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring it’s first ever Lowell City Council Candidates Forum. The event will focus solely on business issues, and is scheduled for October 1 at 7pm. It is co-sponsored by 980-WCAP, Lowell Telecommunications, The Lowell Sun & the Khmer Post.

Morning Host Teddy Panos moderates the Forum, which will be held at the LTC studios on Market Street. All questions will be submitted by Greater Lowell Chamber members. The event will be simulcast on 980-WCAP & LTC channels 8 & 99.

THE STATS ON CRIME IN MA

With June being National Safety Month and summer being the prime season for family relocation, the leading personal finance website WalletHub conducted an in-depth analysis on 2015’s Safest States to Live In.

To help prospective movers find a safe location in which to lay down roots, WalletHub analyzed the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia across 20 key metrics. Some of the metrics in our data set include the number of assaults per 100,000 residents, the number of fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 employees and the percentage of the population lacking health insurance coverage.

Safety Conditions in Massachusetts (1=Safest; 25=Avg.)

- 1st – Share of the Population with No Health Insurance
- 9th – Number of Murders & Non-Negligent Manslaughters per 100,000 Residents
- 11th – Estimated Property Losses from Climate Disasters per 100,000 Residents
- 2nd – Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries per 100,000 Employees
- 2nd – Number of Fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles of Travel
- 22nd – Number of Law Enforcement Employees per 100,000 Residents
- 22nd – Unemployment Rate
- 5th – Bullying Incidents Rate
- 9th – Number of Sex Offenders per 100,000 Residents

AUDITION TREBLE CHORUS OF NEW ENGLAND

Treble Chorus of New England’s newly appointed Artistic Director, John MiddletonCox has announced open auditions for all choirs to help celebrate the groups 40th Season. TCNE boasts a number of premier vocal ensembles; Training Choir (ages 6-9), Concert Choir (ages 10-13), Schola Choir (ages 14-18), and the Opera Program (ages 10-18).

TCNE choirs are directed by an outstanding teaching staff and perform in and around the Merrimack Valley, North Shore and Seacoast throughout the year. This year’s concert schedule includes a number of local venues culminating with a year-end performance at the Rogers Center for Performing Arts at Merrimack College and an International Tour is also planned.

Many of the TCNE alums have gone on to Ivy League Schools and Music Conservatory’s throughout the country. All auditions and rehearsals are held at the West Parish Church Campus in Andover, MA.

To schedule your appointment, please contact: Anna at 978.470.TCNE (8263) or Email Melanie at: mmuggia@treblechorusne.org

FARMERS MARKETS

Farmers Market season to begin next month with new locations!

The Groundwork Farmers Markets feature a wide variety of local produce, as well as crafts. Since assuming management of the downtown market in 2006, Groundwork Lawrence has sought to increase access to the market for all shoppers by accepting SNAP/EBT, credit and debit cards, and working to increase the redemption of WIC and Senior Farmers Market coupons.

Today, the market provides a lively gathering place for the whole community with free attractions such as live entertainment, family activities and cultural and educational exhibits.

Visit us during the following new times and locations:

- Wednesdays, 10AM - 3PM at 372 Essex St, Lawrence, MA. Located at the Food Truck Park, July 8-October 21.
- Fridays, 10AM - 3PM at Holy Family Hospital, 70 East St., Methuen, MA. Located by the Gazebo near the Convent Building, July 10-October 23.
- Saturdays, 10AM - 3PM at Sullivan Park, Winthrop Ave (Rt.114), Lawrence. Intersection of Winthrop Ave & N. Parish Road, next to the Memorial Stadium, July 11-October 24.

SUMMER VACATION PROGRAM

Registration is OPEN and FILLING UP FAST for the Firehouse’s Summer Vacation Program: Glee Club!!

New this summer, TWI sessions:

- Monday-Friday; June 29-July 3, and Monday-Friday, August 17-21.

Times for both summer sessions:

- 2nd-5th grade: 9AM-12PM
- 6th-12th grade: 1: -4PM

Information on the GLEE CLUB program and downloadable registration forms can be found at: www.firehouse.org

*NOTE: Before sending in registration forms. Call 978-499-9931 to confirm space available. Program Fee: \$135/session. Enrollment is limited!

LOWELL SUMMER FESTIVAL

On Friday, June 19th and Saturday, June 20th, Lowell will kick off the summer season with a mini-festival in the heart of the downtown, featuring artist booths, children’s activities, music, en plein air painters and more. Lowell’s favorite ‘gator family—Canaligator, Millie-Gator and

Allie-Gator—will also be on hand to meet and greet their many fans.

Hours for the event will be Friday from 2-7pm. and Saturday from 12-6pm. Palmer Street will be closed between Market and Middle, and between Middle and Merrimack Streets during the event on both days. Friday will focus on art and music as some artists set up their booths while others set up their easels. Watch as artists’ visions of downtown scenes come alive on their canvasses. On Saturday, the artists will be joined by staff from the City of Lowell’s Recreation Department who will organize games for children and by the Lowell Spinners’ colorful and cuddly mascots. Youngsters are invited to display their artistic talents by creating sidewalk chalk art.

“The Summer Kickoff Festival is a great way to begin the season and to showcase all that the City has to offer,” said City Manager Kevin Murphy. “With a growing artist community, unique restaurants and family friendly attractions, there certainly is a lot to like about Lowell this summer!”

Food and festivals go hand-in-hand and hungry visitors will have no shortage of options as they enjoy a meal or a snack at one of Lowell’s many fine restaurants, or pick up locally and organically grown goodies at the Mill City Grows mobile market. Sidewalk sales at participating businesses will offer special deals for shoppers. Parking in the Leo Roy Garage on Market Street will be free during the event.

The weekend also marks the start to the Lowell Summer Music Series at Boardinghouse Park. The Summer Kickoff Festival is made possible by the City of Lowell, The Lowell Office of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Downtown Lowell Merchant’s Association, Lowell Downtown Neighborhood Association and Made in Lowell. For complete details, visit Lowell.org or call (978) 674-4260.

NECC OPEN HOUSE - Are you still uncertain about your plans for the fall? It’s not too late to enroll at Northern Essex Community College. Enroll full time, part time, or take just one class.

NECC is both flexible and affordable. Classes are offered during the day, in the evening, online, and on campus. Attend an

upcoming Admission Information Session on Thursday, June 4, at 10am or Wednesday, June 24, at 5pm. in the Behrakis One-Stop Student Services Center on the Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott Street or Friday, June 12, at 10am. and Tuesday, July 14, at 10am. in the Dr. Ibrahim El-Hefni Allied Health & Technology Center on the Lawrence Campus, 414 Common Street.

NECC Representatives will be on hand to answer questions on financial aid, NECC programs, and more. Are these dates not convenient? Walk-in hours are Monday through Thursday, 9am-6:30pm, and Friday, noon to 4:30pm. For additional information contact NECC’s Enrollment Services at 978-556-3700, or write to admissions@necc.mass.edu. Or visit the NECC website at www.necc.mass.edu

ROCKINGHAM WITERS CLUB

The Rockingham Writers Group is seeking additional members. If you have an interest in writing a novel, short story, memoir, magazine articles or a Self-Help book, contact brianstales@comcast.net This is not a writing course, therefore we expect writers to have a rudimentary grasp of writing fundamentals. We are a small focused group whose objectives is to assist one another to improve our writing skills and to become published writers. Three of our members are published writers and one is a published novelist. We meet the second Tuesday of each month, 10AM to 12PM, at the Kelly Library in Salem, NH.

AUSTIN PREP HONOR ROLL

The following students have made the third-quarter honor roll at Austin Preparatory School in Reading.

DRACUT: HONORS: Rebecca Lowe, Alexis Nichols, Evan Zonderman

HAVERHILL: HONORS: Alexander Gilmore

LAWRENCE: HONORS: Natalie Arenas

LOWELL: HONORS: Bryan Snow

METHUEN: HONORS: Adriana Farias, Maria Luccisano, Eric Naish

NORTH ANDOVER: DISTINCTION: Michael Kamelle, Emily Mastrocola, Michael Roche

HONORS: Danielle Abdenmour, Stanley Alger, Christopher Applegate, Elizabeth Boucher. Kevin Callahan, Megan Mahan, Salina Nihalani, Molly O’Leary, Avani Patel, Alessandra Petrozza, Margaret Raymond, Madison Rieumont, Olivia Zdrojewski.

GLCAC AWARDED GRANTS FOR HOUSING, LITERACY PROGRAMS

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. has been awarded more than \$30,000 in two grants to address adult literacy and the prevention of homelessness. The funding will assist ongoing GLCAC programs to teach English to non-native speakers and provide emergency assistance to individuals facing the loss of housing due to financial hardship.

“Two of the barriers to individuals escaping poverty are a lack of English-language skills and housing insecurity. These grants will help us create opportunities for individuals to learn new skills and careers by first learning to communicate in English. The funds will also prevent the dislocation of individuals who are unable to make a rent or mortgage payment,” said Evelyn Friedman, Executive Director of the GLCAC.

Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera awarded \$15,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding for GLCAC’s English for Speakers of Other Languages, an adult literacy program. “Your project helps the City of Lawrence meet our goals to strengthen the community and make Lawrence a better place to live,” Rivera wrote in the grant award letter.

In addition, GLCAC received \$18,392

from the federal Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, administered locally by the Salvation Army in Haverhill. The money is intended to provide emergency financial assistance to prevent eviction or foreclosure.

GLCAC is a social services agency that annually assists 29,000 individuals in Greater Lawrence. GLCAC's wide range of services, from heating assistance to daycare, focus on lifting families out of poverty and setting them on a pathway to economic stability. GLCAC is a proud partner with the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley. For more information on GLCAC, visit www.glcac.org.

CORRECTION - Last month, we ran a book review in the notebook section called Dig and Dig Deep but forgot to credit Susan Piazza for the book review. Sorry Susan.

*** NORTH ANDOVER SENIORS ***

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and manmade.

MEMA TIPS FOR DEALING WITH THE EXTREME HEAT

Slow down, avoid strenuous activity. Do not try to do too much during the hottest hours of the day. Drink plenty of water regularly and often, even if you do not feel thirsty. Limit intake of alcoholic beverages. They can actually dehydrate your body. Eat well-balanced, light, regular meals. Avoid high protein foods that increase metabolic heat. Stay indoors as much as possible.

Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect heat and sunlight and help maintain normal body temperature. Protect your face with a wide-brimmed hat. If you do not have air conditioning, stay on your lowest floor, out of the sun. Electric fans do not cool the air, but they do help evaporate sweat, which cools your body. Go to a place where you can get relief from the heat, such as air conditioned schools, libraries, theaters and other community facilities that may offer refuge during the warmest times of the day. Avoid too much sunshine. Sunburn slows the skin's ability to cool itself. If you are outside, use sunscreen lotion with a high SPF (Sun Protection Factor) rating. Never leave children or pets alone in a closed vehicle. Check on family, friends and neighbors. For additional information during a heat-wave call #211 for information on Cooling Stations.

Upcoming Socials:
North Andover Country Club Golf Passes are available with reception. Two (2) 7 week programs are available to North Andover, age 60+senior residents. Courtesy Passes are \$6, one program per senior with proof of residency only. Tee times are on Mondays, from 12:30 – 2:30. 9 holes \$15 and 18 holes \$20. Dress code required.

In June we will once again be starting the in-house meals. Wednesdays we will be returning with the Fresh Table. Sign up is limited to 30 seniors and you must pay (\$5) at time of sign up by the Friday before. Menus available with reception.

SUPPER CLUB: Thursday June 18th, at FUSION Restaurant in Methuen. Sign up begins June 3rd. Bus transportation \$4 payable at time of sign up. Dinner reservation is for 4:30.

DAY TRIP TO HAMPTON BEACH: to see the Annual Sand Sculptures. Friday June 19th. Bus \$6, lunch on your own. Trip departs 10:30 from the Senior Center.

PIZZA LUNCH WITH THOMSON SCHOOL 4TH GRADERS. Friday June 19th at 12 noon. Sign up limited to (50) North Andover Seniors. STACHEY'S donates the pizza.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Sponsored and served by Peregrine's Landing Assisted Living. Wednesday June 24th, 12:30 at the North Andover Senior Center. Sign up required at reception.

MORRISEY BOULEVARD MUSEUM HOP: Thursday June 25th. Travel to Morrisey Boulevard in Boston to explore the Harbor Point Museums: JFK Presidential Library, Edward M Kennedy Institute for US Senate or The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archives. Bus departs at 9:30. Cost for van \$6, museum admission \$12, (Commonwealth Museum is free) and bring a picnic lunch or on your own at the JFK café.

GREATER LOWELL MUSIC THEATRE presents "ANYTHING GOES" Sunday June 28th. Tickets and transportation \$25. Bus departs at 1pm. Sign up with reception. Limited to 12 seniors.

CHESSE CLUB: Interested in LEARNING or TEACHING? Tuesdays 1-3 Call reception 978-688-9560 to sign up.

ONE ON ONE COMPUTER INSTRUCTION: 45 minute sessions for \$7. Tuesdays with George Chory and Thursdays with Tom Kookan. Hours are 9-12. Make your appointments with reception 978-688-9560. This time can accommodate gadgets, too, if necessary (Phones, Tablets, etc.)



Tom Duggan is the publisher of The Valley Patriot, a former Lawrence School Committeeman, an author, and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program on WCAP, 980AM, every Saturday from 10am-noon. You can email your comments to valleypatriot@aol.com.



Methuen Police Officer Jeff Torrisi with an eyeglass mounted camera.

Methuen Police Use Body Cameras

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

The Methuen police are testing new body camera equipment donated to the department as part of a pilot program. So, last month I had the opportunity to do a police ride-along in Methuen to see how well it was working out.

Riding with Officer Jeff Torrisi, we pulled over several cars on Pelham Street as Officer Torrisi explained how the cameras worked.

"One of the best features of this system is that the camera records in a buffer every 30 seconds. So, when I tap it to turn it on, we can actually get the 30 seconds of footage before I turned it on. There will be no audio, but you will be able to clearly see everything that happened that would prompt an officer to activate the camera. Those 30 seconds are critical when there's something serious going on."

Detective McMenamon, the officer in charge of the pilot program, says that officers are not able to erase anything on the tape once they hit record. "The video on each chip has to be downloaded in a dock here at the station, and only the official in charge has access to the passwords to view it."

"What I've found is that people actually act nicer once they know they are on camera," Officer Torrisi says. "They are much more cooperative. It's good protection for us too as police officers, because people can't make things up anymore when they get themselves in trouble. There are still some glitches I think that have to be worked out, but overall I like them, and the other officers I've talked to like them as well."

Detective McMenamon says that there are two different kinds of police body cameras being tested in Methuen. The camera used by Officer Torrisi during our ride along (pictured above) was a camera mounted to his eyeglasses. The other kind is a shirt-mounted camera on the chest.

"Some officers prefer the camera on the glasses because the camera sees exactly what you see," Officer Torrisi says. It can see over the dashboard while you are driving, whereas the chest-mounted camera don't. Also, officers who have used this in other areas have said that when they pull their weapon and extend their arms out in front, their arms obstruct the view of the chest mounted cameras."

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Christian Film Festival: Faith of our Fathers



Next month The Valley Patriot will be publishing an interview with one of the writers of Faith of Our Fathers, Tom Saab of Salisbury. The movie will be shown at Visionmax on Rt. 110 in Salisbury, MA on July 1st-5th. Any group interested in purchasing 750 tickets can contact Tom Saab to bring a movie to your city.

Pure Flix Releases 'Faith Of Our Fathers' Commemorating 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War starring Stephen Baldwin; Features Duck Dynasty's Si Robertson Contact: Michael Conrad, 214-616-0320, Michael@Lovell-Fairchild.com

Faith of Our Fathers is a moving story of faith and friendship in time of war, and for generations—premieres nationwide July 1 as the nation commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

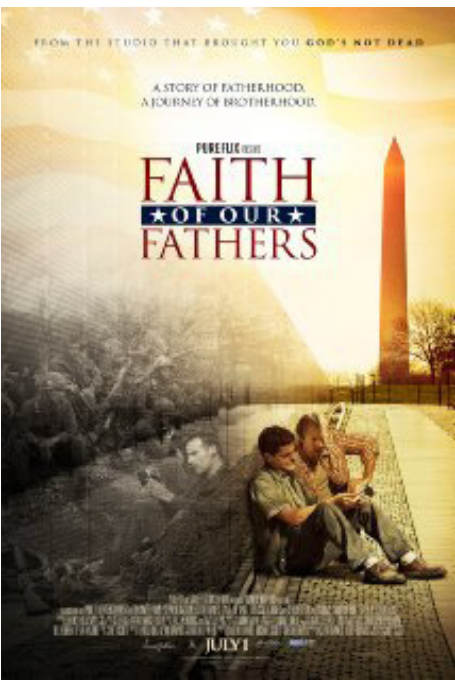
A Downes Brothers production in association with Pure Flix, FAITH OF OUR FATHERS stars Stephen Baldwin, Kevin Downes, David A.R. White, Candace Cameron Bure, Rebecca St. James and Si Robertson, Duck Dynasty's "Uncle Si," who is a Vietnam veteran. Carey Scott directs. Pure Flix and Samuel Goldwyn Films distribute.

With the Vietnam War raging in 1969, two young fathers report for duty. A man of great faith and a doubtful cynic. A quarter-century later, their sons, Wayne and John Paul (David A.R. White and Kevin Downes), meet as strangers. Guided by letters handwritten from their fathers from the battlefield, they embark on an unforgettable journey to The Wall—the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Along the way, they discover the devastation of war cannot break the love of a father for his son.

"FAITH OF OUR FATHERS is coming out at a strategically important time in American history as our nation is currently commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War," said Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Doug Carver, USA-Retired, 22nd Army Chief of Chaplains (2007-2011).

Beginning July 1, stand up for faith, freedom and fatherhood as Pure Flix, the studio that created GOD'S NOT DEAD, presents FAITH OF OUR FATHERS. A story of fatherhood. A journey of brotherhood.

"FAITH OF OUR FATHERS honors all of those who served," said Pure Flix Co-Founder and President Michael Scott. "Pure Flix is thrilled to partner with



Downes Brothers and Samuel Goldwyn as we commemorate this important moment in our nation's history."

"Samuel Goldwyn Films is about unique voices bringing original stories to a wide audience," said Meyer Gottlieb, president of Samuel Goldwyn. "In that spirit, FAITH OF OUR FATHERS is a fresh look at brotherhood forged in battle and love's lasting power into future generations."

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS reunites Stephen Baldwin (THE USUAL SUSPECTS) with the Downes Brothers (Baldwin previously starred in the Downes' film SIX: THE MARK UNLEASHED), and marks Candace Cameron Bure's (Full House) return to feature films. It also features Grammy and Dove Award-winning Christian singer, author and actress Rebecca St. James. For David A.R. White (GOD'S NOT DEAD, THE VISITATION), a founder of Pure Flix, FAITH OF OUR FATHERS is the latest collaboration with the Downes Brothers. And Si Robertson brings his signature humor to his role as well as his personal experience as a Vietnam vet and man of faith.

Bobby Downes, Kevin Downes, Michael Scott and David A.R. White produced. Executive producers are Bill Herren, Kevin Malone and Christopher Morrow.

For interviews, contact: Michael Conrad Michael@Lovell-Fairchild.com 214-616-0320

FaithOfOurFathersMovie.com
Twitter: @FaithFathers
Facebook.com/FaithOfOurFathersMovie
Downes Brothers DownesBrothers.com

SHEILA'S RECIPE CORNER

SHEILA MULLINS
VALLEY PATRIOT RECIPE COLUMNIST

Warm weather... aaaaaaaah. Perfect! It's time to think about warm weather ingredients. Of course coconut & rum are part of the ingredients this month. How could one go wrong with that? Seriously? And, what about feeding a crowd? Boy, oh boy! This feeds a CROWD. I'm talking 12-16 people. You will need your largest Dutch oven for this & perhaps something larger even. I have a 6 qt. Dutch oven & it made more than that! WOW! The best part, it's a 2 pot meal, feeds a crowd, perfect for a pot luck dinner, isn't expensive, filling, & frankly, rather nutritious, reheats perfectly so one can make it in advance & just reheat & make the rice to serve with it when needed. How's that for easy?



SWEET POTATO CURRY
3-3.5 lb. sweet potatoes, peeled & cut into 1" cubes
1-28 oz. can crushed tomatoes
2.25-2.5 lb. onions, sliced
2 T oil
1-24 oz. bag French sliced green beans
1-24 oz. bag of frozen peas
32 oz. yogurt, regular, low fat or fat free
¾ c ground coriander seed
¼ c curry powder
1-1.5 t cayenne pepper
1 t salt
¾ t black pepper
Water
Brown rice, cooked
Into a Dutch oven over medium heat, place the oil & heat until hot. Add the onions & salt. Stir to coat & stir occasionally. Cook over medium-low heat until caramelized but not burnt. Note: Do not try to rush this step. This takes about 25-30 minutes. Lower heat if onions begin to burn.

Add black pepper, cayenne pepper, curry powder, ground coriander seed, & tomatoes. Place in the sweet potatoes. Add water. Note: I found I needed about 36 oz. water; your water amount will vary. Cover & cook over medium low to low heat stirring every 5 minutes. Add water as necessary. Cook until the sweet potatoes are tender, about 25 minutes.

Add the beans, peas, & yogurt. Heat until beans & peas are cooked. Serve over rice.

My buddy Alex & I frequent Oya Café in Malden. I wish they had Tres Leches cake on the menu. It's Cuban after all! Maybe I'll talk to Roberto about that... Anyway, as I was thinking about this, my mind wandered to the fact that it IS warm out & coconut seems perfect...and rum. And coffee cake. Jerry wanted coffee cake for breakfast, so...Oh come on, coffee cake with rum, coconut, & tres leches? It's a winner! WARNING: this is RICH. REALLY rich. Although I call this a coffee cake, it would make a fine dessert as well.



TRES LECHES COFFEE CAKE
Cake:
1 egg
½ t salt
¾ c sugar
3 T canola oil
1-1/2 c flour
1 T baking powder
1 t vanilla
¾ c milk

Filling & topping:
1 can coconut milk, chilled overnight in the refrigerator
1 can coconut cream, chilled overnight in the refrigerator
½ c whipping cream
1 can of sweetened condensed milk
1 T vanilla
2 T light rum*
1 t coconut extract
1 cinnamon stick
1 pinch freshly grated nutmeg
2T c sifted powdered sugar
1 c unsweetened coconut, toasted

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease & flour a 9" cake pan.

In a large mixing bowl, place all cake ingredients & mix with a spoon until combined. Pour into the prepared pan & bake for 25 minutes or until just set. Remove from oven & let cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove cake from pan to plate with a raised edge. Slice cake in half horizontally & set top half aside.

While cake is baking, prepare the filling & topping mixture. Remove the 2 coconut milk/cream cans & separate the liquid from the semi-solid mixture.

Reserve those for another use. Into a larger saucepan, place the coconut cream, coconut milk, rum (if using), vanilla, coconut extract, cinnamon stick, nutmeg, sweetened condensed milk. Cook over medium low heat for 15-20 minutes or until thickened. Remove the cinnamon stick. Remove from heat; pour into a measuring cup & reserve.

In a bowl, place the whipping cream & powdered sugar & beat until stiff peaks form. Fold the filling into whipped cream. Poke holes in top with a fork. Place ½ of filling/topping mixture onto lower half of cake & spread to edges.

Place top layer back on. Top the top layer with the rest of the filling/topping mixture. When ready to serve, sprinkle the toasted coconut on top.

Serves 10-12. This needs to be refrigerated if not being served.



Recipes are created by Sheila Mullins & taste tested by Jerry & Sheila Mullins. Sheila lives in Newburyport & is a personal cook, among other things. She can be reached at Sheila_A_Mullins@hotmail.com & she looks forward to hearing from you.

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PUBLIC RECORDS LAW: FROM PAGE 3

to public documents, we cannot claim that there is transparency in government,” DiZoglio said. “If we don’t have some kind of penalty, there is no enforcement and people are not going to comply ... this is what I ran on, public accountability, transparency in government; this definitely has to be done.”

Also a co-sponsor of the bill is Methuen State Representative Linda Dean Campbell.

“The one thing we need to ensure is that our government can be held accountable for their actions, it’s the right of the people to get access to public records. I absolutely believe this law needs to be changed and we absolutely need to have stiff fines and penalties for those who refuse to release records to the public,” Campbell said.

Senator Ives said that the proposed penalties in her bill would “incentivize timely compliance with reasonable public records requests and encourages increased government transparency and accountability.”

“I think it’s great that we have been able to put together a coalition of left wing democrats and right wing republicans, people who generally do not agree on anything, to work for more open, more transparent government,” Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan said.

“When someone like Neil Harrington, the town manager of Salisbury, or former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua can comfortably sit back and break the law with impunity because there is no penalty for breaking the law, its time to change the law. That’s what I’m trying to do. As publisher of a newspaper, we submit a lot of records requests and most officials comply. But when you are dealing with certain officials who do not want the pub-

lic to see what they have been up to, you have to jump through hoops, sometimes for years, and then never get the records because they know they can get away with concealing them.”

ELECTRONIC RECORDS
Senate Bill S1700 is one of many public records bills making their way through the legislature. State Senator Jamie Eldridge has also filed a bill mandating public agencies, including cities and towns, put all their public records online in an easily searchable format to ease the number of requests for public records.

“I have always believed strongly that the public should have instant access to public information, and the information public officials use to make decisions. I am someone who believes that we need to work hard to restore people’s faith in government. Part of how we do that is to make all information, and how we make our decisions as public officials, available online and as accessible as possible.”

GALVIN WANTS TO LIMIT AMOUNT OF RECORDS PUBLIC CAN REQUEST

While Secretary Galvin said he supports penalties and court costs being added to the public records law, he also said that he wanted the legislature to narrow the scope of what kind and how many documents a member of the public can request. He cited instances where people had asked for volumes of information over a period of years so they could sift through the documents themselves instead of telling officials what they are looking for and letting them filter the information.

“Let me tell you why that’s a bad idea,” Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan said on his radio show on 980WCAP in response to Galvin’s statement at the com-

mittee hearing.
“If we cannot request volumes of documents so that we, as members of the public can do our own research, we are stuck having to accept that a public official has gone through them and accurately pulled out the information we are looking for. That’s not acceptable. The mere fact that Galvin wants to narrow this means less accountability. It means we have to tell the officials who or what we are investigating, and in the case of corrupt officials like Willie Lantigua and Neil Harrington, it gives them a heads up as to what we are working on. In my experience, and I’ve been doing this a long time, that is when documents start to disappear.”

Duggan says he expects his bill, S1700, to be reported favorably out of the legislative committee and is readying a fight in the full House and the Senate.

“It’s not enough that we brought together Democrats and Republicans to support this as well as the Tea Party and left wing groups, what we need now are commitments from the rest of the legislature and Governor Baker. I will be on the phone with every legislator who will take my call over the next few months lobbying for this bill, and anyone who cares about holding their government officials accountable should be doing the same.”

A WELCOME CHANGE
State Representative Jim Lyons says he is pleasantly surprised that there are Democrats willing to buck their party leadership to stand for changes in the public records law. Lyons has been calling for reforms for years.

“Having Democrats beat this drum is wonderful,” he said giggling. “I wish more of them would do that. With a little help from rank and file Democrats we can



Secretary of State Bill Galvin wants to limit the information the public can request.

send a clear message that the way it is now, is simply unacceptable. I welcome any help and I will work with anyone who is sincerely interested in holding our public officials accountable. I believe the timing could be right on this one and we might be able to get real meaningful legislation passed. I think at the end of the day, what you will see is a revolt on Beacon Hill. A revolt where the members say to the leadership ‘something has to be done here’, this has to stop... and the leadership will have to listen.”

“There is absolutely no need for The Valley Patriot or anyone else out there to fight this hard to find out what our government officials are up to. But at least now we can do something for future cases and make sure things like what is going on in Lawrence will not happen again. I give The Valley Patriot a lot of credit here, you guys are making a difference and I think, working together we are going to get this law changed.”

NEIL HARRINGTON: FROM PAGE 23

attention to Lantigua’s misdeeds because nobody outside of Lawrence respected him. But, Harrington is politically powerful, he has backup, and he has a lot of political influence outside of Salisbury. That means it’s harder to get people to pay attention to his misdeeds.

HARRINGTON THE LAW BREAKER
I waited months for Harrington to comply with the state’s 10-day public records law. I called other public officials and asked if they could persuade him to act responsibly. Most of them raved about how

“awesome” Harrington is, and “Neil’s a nice guy, he’s very helpful to me.”

Senator Ives, however, took the issue head on and scheduled a meeting with the three of us. At the end of that meeting (in June of last year) Harrington gave his word, (not only to me but the state senator), that The Valley Patriot would indeed get the documents by that Friday.

Friday came and went.
July came and went.
Sometime in September I reminded our state senator of a promise made in

the town managers office and she was horrified to learn ... surprise ... I was still waiting. Eventually, after a few more calls from Senator Ives, Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington released the public records we were entitled to by law ... it was a long ten days.

TIP OF THE ICEBURG
Up until now, all the public discussion on this issue has focused on how the state’s public records law hinders the press. But, it’s the average people like the Tomasellis ... and you ... who are far more affected by officials who willingly conceal public records, especially when you may need those records to show how corrupt those local officials are.

YES, IT COULD BE YOU!
Just imagine you try to get the prop-

erty map from your local assessor to prove your neighbor built a fence on your property. You take your neighbor to court but because your local assessor refuses to release those documents, you lose in court and your property is suddenly the property of your neighbor ... only to find out months later that your neighbor is the town assessor’s brother-in-law and was in on it all along.

We have laws for a reason, and we enforce those laws with penalties for a reason.

It shouldn’t be this hard, folks.
There’s a Neil Harrington in every city and town in Massachusetts.

Email your legislators and tell them to support S-1700, the Public Records Transparency Bill, or the next story I write about a reader losing their property ... could be you!

Hablamos Español



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